

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	125259
Inspection date	18/09/2008
Inspector	Linda Patricia Coccia
Type of setting	Childminder

Introduction

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under Sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of the registered early years provision. 'Early years provision' refers to provision regulated by Ofsted for children from birth to 31 August following their fifth birthday (the early years age group). The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and welfare, known as the *Early Years Foundation Stage*.

The report includes information on any complaints about the childcare provision which Ofsted has received since the last inspection or registration whichever is the later, which require Ofsted or the provider to take action in Annex C.

The provider must provide a copy of this report to all parents with children at the setting where reasonably practicable. The provider must provide a copy of the report to any other person who asks for one, but may charge a fee for this service (The Childcare (Inspection) Regulations 2008 regulations 9 and 10).

The setting also makes provision for children older than the early years age group which is registered on the voluntary and/or compulsory part(s) of the Childcare Register. This report does not include an evaluation of that provision, but a comment about compliance with the requirements of the Childcare Register is included in Annex B.

Description of the childminding

The childminder was registered in 1991. The childminder resides with her husband and two adult children. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding, including a downstairs toilet. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The childminder is registered to look after six children under eight years. She is currently looking after three children in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). The childminder is also registered on the compulsory and voluntary Childcare Registers. The family has a pet dog and cats. The childminder walks to local schools and pre-schools to take and collect children.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The childminder uses a range of well thought out, effective procedures to ensure that children enjoy their time with her and which help her to meet their individual needs. She knows all the children very well through long term relationships with their siblings and parents. This has resulted in a close and caring relationship between the childminder and the minded children and very good partnerships with parents. The childminder's paperwork is organised and children's records are very well maintained.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

To further improve the early years provision the registered person should:

- develop systems for the observation and assessment of children's learning and development and for reviewing service practices

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder manages her provision very well. The play space has a number of areas which allow children choices depending on their moods. For example, a cosy couch enables them to snuggle up with the childminder for story time and the free floor space allows them to spread out with their toys. The childminder's written policies and procedures are regularly updated. Within the policies, the childminder explains to parents why they are necessary and they clearly show the impact of the procedures on the children. The childminder keeps up to date on current childcare practice through regular contact with other registered childminders and she receives regular information from the local authority. This ensures that children remain safe and secure. She ensures that all adults in contact with the children are suitable and has a good understanding of the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures as she has recently attended an updated course. Since the last inspection the childminder has introduced a complaints procedure which has been shared with parents. She has also gathered information on childhood illnesses and incubation periods allowing children to be further protected from cross infection. However, although the childminder amends her policies and

procedures occasionally, and listens to parents comments through their feedback questionnaires, she does not use any formal system to review her overall service in order to maintain or improve it.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children make good progress within the EYFS. They use a good range of toys and participate in a range of activities which promote their learning and development. Children have the opportunity for individual time with the childminder as well as playing together to help develop social skills. Suitable behaviour management strategies are in place to enable children to learn about sharing and taking turns. Children are included in planning activities which enables the childminder to discover their likes and dislikes. They have choices about what they can play with. They can self select from toys stored in suitable boxes which are readily available around the room. Older children can bring their own electronic toys if they want to but they are encouraged to share. The childminder has regular discussions with parents regarding their children's progress, however, she has no formal systems in place to observe and assess the children's progress. The childminder effectively promotes inclusive practice in her provision. Children's individual requirements are a high priority for her and she provides suitable aids to ensure each child is comfortable and included within her provision. For example, children with little or no language can use communication cards enabling them to show what they want or need. Children regularly experience a range of good physical activities in the garden and at the park which help them to stay fit and healthy.

Annex A: record of inspection judgements

The key inspection judgements and what they mean

Outstanding: this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality

Good: this aspect of the provision is strong

Satisfactory: this aspect of the provision is sound

Inadequate: this aspect of the provision is not good enough

Overall effectiveness

How effective is the provision in meeting the needs of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage?	Good
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	Good
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	Good

Leadership and management

How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?	Good
How effective is the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement?	Satisfactory
How well does the setting work in partnership with parents and others?	Good
How well are children safeguarded?	Good

Quality and standards

How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?	Good
How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?	Good
How well are children helped to stay safe?	Good
How well are children helped to be healthy?	Good
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	Good
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	Good
How well are children helped develop skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being?	Good

Any complaints about the inspection or report should be made following the procedures set out in the guidance available from Ofsted's website:
www.ofsted.gov.uk

Annex B: the Childcare Register

The provider confirms that the requirements of the compulsory part of the Childcare Register are:	Met
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The provider confirms that the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register are:	Met
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Annex C: complaint/s made to Ofsted

This section of the report includes details of any complaint/s made to Ofsted when:

- we took action for the provider to meet the requirements of the Early Years Register; or
- we asked the provider to take action in order to meet the requirements of the Early Years Register; or
- the provider had already taken any necessary action to meet the requirements of the Early Years Register.

We will not report on any complaint where the provider met the requirements of the Early Years Register or did not require any action by Ofsted or the registered provider.

Detail of the complaint/s

Not applicable on this occasion.

The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by parents, which they can see on request. The complaints record may contain complaints other than those made to Ofsted.