

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY277460
Inspection date	03/02/2009
Inspector	Marilyn Peacock

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 has been registered since 2004. She lives with her partner and three children aged 15, 13 and six years of age. The family live in a house in a residential area of Collier Row in the London Borough of Havering. The premises are within walking distance of local schools, shops, parks, bus routes and community resources. The whole of the ground floor of the premises is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for no more than five children under eight years of age. The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and both the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. The childminder currently has two children in the early years age group and one child in the compulsory age group. The childminder attends local toddler groups and meets regularly with other registered childminders. The family do not have any pets.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is satisfactory. The childminder provides a caring, suitable, inclusive environment for the children that attend. Children are making steady progress in their learning and development and a sound relationship with parents underpins the care she provides. Adequate concern is given to the continuous improvement of the provision and reasonable steps have been taken on the recommendations identified at the last inspection.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- continue developing activities and resources which help children become aware of, explore and question differences in gender, ethnicity, language, religion, culture, special educational needs and disability issues
- continue to develop the partnership with parents by developing a two-way flow of information, knowledge and expertise.

To fully meet the specific requirements of the EYFS, the registered person must:

- obtain written parental permission to seek any necessary emergency medical advice or treatment (Safeguarding and welfare) 25/03/2009
- conduct a full risk assessment of the garden and take all reasonable steps to ensure that hazards to children are minimised, ensure assessments are reviewed regularly (Suitable premises, environment and equipment) 25/03/2009

The leadership and management of the early years provision

Children's health and well-being are suitably supported as most of the required records are in place. The childminder holds a current paediatric first aid qualification, she maintains clear records of any medication administered and clear systems are in place to share details of any accidents which may occur. However, the childminder has not sought prior parental consent to seek emergency medical advice or treatment which could compromise children's well-being in an emergency situation. A full set of policies and procedures are in place to guide the childminder's service, these are shared with parents when they enrol their child into her care but documentation has not yet been amended to reflect recent changes in legislation. Information on how children have spent their day is shared verbally with parents when they collect their child at the end of the day. Information on children's family routines and their dietary and cultural needs are obtained at the start of the childminding agreement; helping the childminder to develop continuity of care for the children. Parental consents to use the car, apply sun cream and attend local groups are in place which helps ensure children's safety and well-being when in the childminders care. The childminder has introduced systems to evaluate the care and learning she provides. She has attended a number of courses and later this year will be attending an NVQ management course to help her develop her service further, however, current evaluation processes have not identified the weakness in her provision.

Resources are readily accessible which enables the children that attend to make choices of resources which interest them. Daily routines consider children's individual needs and sleep patterns. They benefit from regular opportunities to visit toddler groups and other childminders, so that they can play with their peers. Children are appropriately safeguarded as the childminder has a secure understanding of how to protect children. A safeguarding policy is in place outlining the procedures she will follow if concerned about a child in her care. The childminder has given careful consideration to minimising risks to children in her home and on outings. She has had a visit from the fire service to advise her on fire safety, working smoke alarms are on both levels of the house and a fire blanket is within easy reach in the kitchen. Children practice emergency evacuation procedures regularly, therefore they are able to leave the house calmly and confidently in an emergency. However the same consideration has not been given to the hazards in the garden where there are long wooden poles with large nails sticking out, uneven surfaces and piles of rubble which could compromise children's safety.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children are happy and settled in the childminders care. She knows children's individual needs well and has started to record children's progress towards the early learning goals. There are detailed observations of their play and development made regularly. These highlight what children can do and identify their next steps for progress. Photographs give a visual record of children's achievements when in the childminders home and when visiting local community groups. However

systems to share information on children's learning from home and their progress while in the childminders care are not fully developed. Children are starting to gain an understanding of the wider world through role play and looking at different festivals but resources supporting children's understanding of diversity are few. Children develop good relationships with adults and other children at the local drop-in centres and visits to other childminders, they are learning to co-operate and work well together. Children enjoy looking at and exploring books. They enjoy re-telling stories to the childminder who introduces new vocabulary into their play by asking questions and encouraging them to recall past events. Children use their imagination and express their ideas in a variety of ways. They act out well-known scenarios during role-play; happily acting out making tea for visitors and then washing up the cups.

Children are learning to keep healthy and the childminder promotes healthy eating. They enjoy trips to the local park and activity clubs to develop their physical skills and to take in the fresh air. They eat well and enjoy a range of healthy snacks including bread and fruit encouraging them to develop healthy eating practices. Fresh drinking water is readily available and children have their own different coloured cups to help develop their independence. Children eat with the family at the end of the day sharing healthy nutritious meals such as home made pizza and shepherds pie. Should parents chose to provide children's meals these are stored and reheated in agreement with the parents wishes. Children are starting to learn how to keep themselves safe. The childminder explains the sequence of the lights at crossings and reminds them of the green cross code before they leave the house to walk to the shops. Children behave well and benefit from the consistent praise and encouragement given by the childminder. Behaviour management strategies are appropriate and help children understand right from wrong.

Annex A: record of inspection judgements

The key inspection judgements and what they mean

Grade 1 is Outstanding: this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality

Grade 2 is Good: this aspect of the provision is strong

Grade 3 is Satisfactory: this aspect of the provision is sound

Grade 4 is 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?	3
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	3
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	3

Leadership and management

How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?	3
How effective is the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement?	3
How well does the setting work in partnership with parents and others?	3
How well are children safeguarded?	2

Quality and standards

How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?	2
How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?	3
How well are children helped to stay safe?	2
How well are children helped to be healthy?	2
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	2
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	3
How well are children helped develop skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being?	3

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

The provider confirms that the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register are: Met

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

Since the last inspection Ofsted received one complaint that required the provider to take action. Concerns were received in August 2008. Ofsted visited the provider which resulted in the issuing of a Notice to Improve for the provider to ensure children are kept safe and are supervised at all times whilst on outings. The provider was also reminded of the requirement to ensure that they abide by their conditions of registration, with particular regard to the number of children in their care.

Following receipt of an appropriate response to the notice to improve no further action was taken and the provider remains registered with Ofsted.

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.