

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	124057
Inspection date	27/01/2009
Inspector	Jill Nugent
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).

Children only attend this setting before and/or after the school day and/or during the school holidays. The judgements in this report reflect the quality of early years provision offered to children during those periods.

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 registered in 1988. She lives with her husband and one adult child in a house in Cheshunt. Access to the house is at ground level directly from the driveway. The whole of the ground floor of the house is used for childminding. There is a secure garden available for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. She is registered to care for a maximum of six children under eight at any one time. Currently she is minding seven children, three of whom are in the early years group. She walks to a local school to take and collect children.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The childminder provides effectively for children in the early years. She offers a welcoming and inclusive setting where children feel at home and enjoy their play. They make good progress in their learning, although the planning and observation system is not yet wholly effective in helping them to extend their learning. Most required documentation is in place and provides a sound framework for children's welfare. The childminder is beginning to evaluate her practice and work towards further improvement in some areas.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- develop the activity planning to help meet children's learning needs by making use of their identified next steps
- develop the use of self-evaluation as a tool to highlight areas of the practice requiring further improvement.

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

- conduct a risk assessment of the premises, and each type of regular outing, and devise an emergency evacuation plan (suitable premises, environment and equipment).

06/03/2009

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder has all the required policies in place and these are made available to parents. Her documentation is well organised and the necessary consents are requested from parents. The childminder is aware of the strengths of her practice and some areas requiring further improvement, although she is not using self-

evaluation as a tool to highlight all possible areas of development. She is keen to continually improve her practice and has worked hard to implement the new Early Years Foundation Stage. She has sought advice and attended training in order to increase her knowledge and understanding. Her back garden has been improved for children though the addition of an awning allowing outdoor play in hot weather.

The childminder has a good understanding of safeguarding issues and all adults living in the house have been vetted. She organises her time effectively so that she can be involved with the children, thereby ensuring that they are safe and happy. Children feel included and able to make choices and consequently develop close relationships with the childminder. She works closely with parents, having known some of them for many years. She talks with them daily to exchange information and keep them up to date with events. She is sensitive when feeding back to parents about children's achievements and offers good support to children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. Children and parents benefit from her long experience of childcare.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children enjoy the freedom to choose from a selection of colourful and attractive resources. They enjoy the interaction of the childminder as she joins them in play, encouraging them to communicate and have fun. Children are very content in her care and respond positively to her caring and friendly attitude. They are naturally curious and have good opportunities to explore freely as the childminder is always on hand to supervise and support. For example, children delight in playing with a household brush or shopping catalogue. She helps them to learn how to use play equipment, such as a shape sorter, and enhances their enjoyment through offering suggestions. She is particularly adept at knowing when to intervene in children's play in order to catch their interest and build on it. Children play harmoniously in the relaxed atmosphere, developing a real sense of belonging in the childminder's home.

The childminder has introduced a system for noting observations of children's ongoing learning and development, linking her comments to the stages of development shown in the Early Years Foundation Stage. However, she is not yet using her observations to plan activities based on children's next steps so as to meet their individual needs. She promotes learning well through play, and conversation, and is aware of the needs of individual children. She provides a variety of interesting activities covering all areas of learning. Children develop self confidence as they count, sing or take part in imaginative play. The childminder takes opportunities to increase their awareness of the natural environment and extend their problem solving skills as they calculate numbers or construct models. Children enjoy taking part in physical activities in the garden and park. Young children are supported well as they develop an awareness of their own bodies and learn to walk.

The childminder is very attentive to children's practical needs and promotes their welfare effectively. There are appropriate medical procedures in place and she

takes care to adopt good hygiene practices. She liaises with parents regarding children's dietary needs and ensures that children bring healthy foods for their meals. She has introduced various safety measures around her house and garden in order to provide a safe environment for children. The premises are child-friendly and the childminder checks visually to ensure they remain safe. However, she has not conducted a risk assessment of the premises, or of each type of regular outing that children take part in, to help minimise any further risks. She has talked with children about what to do in an emergency although she has not devised an emergency evacuation plan. Children develop an awareness of personal safety as she reminds them about possible dangers during play and when walking to and from school.

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?	2
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	2
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	2

Leadership and management

How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?	2
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?	2
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?	2
How well are children helped to stay safe?	3
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?	2
How well are children helped develop skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being?	2

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:

Not Met (with actions)

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

Not Met (with actions)

The registered provider does not meet the requirements of the compulsory and or voluntary part/s of the Childcare Register.

To comply with the requirements of the compulsory part of the Childcare Register, the registered person must take the following action/s by the specified date:

- take action as specified in the early years section of the report (suitability and safety of premises and equipment).

06/03/2009

To comply with the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register, the registered person must take the following action/s by the specified date:

- take action as specified in the early years section of the report (suitability and safety of premises and equipment).

06/03/2009

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

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the last inspection.

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.