

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	123897
Inspection date	10/02/2009
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).

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 1996. She lives with her husband in a house in Goffs Oak. Children are mostly cared for in a purpose built annexe and have access to a secure garden for outdoor play. There are separate entrances to the house and annexe, access to the annexe is via an entrance directly off the driveway.

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 six children, of whom four are in the Early Years age group.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The overall quality of the provision is good. The childminder offers a very welcoming and attractive play environment for children. They enjoy a wide variety of activities and become active, confident learners. Their welfare is promoted well as the childminder is particularly attentive to health and safety. Most of the required documentation for the Early Years Foundation Stage is in place. The childminder has introduced a system of self-evaluation to enable her to continually improve her provision.

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 ensure that children's next steps of learning are taken into account when planning future learning experiences.

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

- maintain a record showing aspects of the environment that are checked regularly as part of ongoing risk assessments (suitable premises, environment and equipment, also applies to both parts of the childcare register) 20/03/2009
- put in place an effective policy about ensuring equality of opportunities (safeguarding and welfare, also applies to both parts of the childcare register). 20/03/2009

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder's documentation is well organised and readily available. She has attended a variety of training courses since her previous inspection, thereby increasing her knowledge and understanding in different areas of childcare. Her

interest in attending further training helps her to maintain a high standard of childcare. Through self-evaluation she is beginning to reflect on her practice and highlight areas for possible development. She ensures that all children feel included and valued in her care, for example, explaining how they can share resources if all want to take part in the same activity. She promotes equality of opportunity effectively, although, she does not have a policy in place that explains her practice.

The childminder has much supporting information relating to safeguarding issues and knows where to seek advice if she has any concerns in the area of child protection. She works closely with parents, providing information about her setting and exchanging information on a daily basis. Her paperwork is clear and concise so that parents are made fully aware of any required information and written consents. Parents may view her daily diary which details the events of each day and includes comments on children's enjoyment and achievements. This close liaison with parents helps them to feel welcome and to be involved in their children's learning and development.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children enjoy an exceptionally stimulating and child-friendly play environment with a wide range of attractive resources easily accessible. They show much interest in the activities on offer and often become very absorbed in their play. They develop close relationships with each other and happily work and play together as a group. The childminder joins in and supports their chosen activities, enhancing their play through making suggestions and extending their thinking. For example, children queue up excitedly at a 'till' when she changes the play kitchen into a shop. The childminder is aware of the developmental needs of individual children and organises activities suited to their abilities. She is particularly adept at encouraging their use of language, speaking clearly and increasing their vocabulary. As a result, children become confident and learn to make their own positive contribution to the group.

The childminder plans a variety of interesting activities across all areas of learning. Children have opportunities for outings in the local area which help them to learn about the natural environment. They like to share books, make music and explore creatively. When taking part in activities planned around festivals they discover more about different cultures. The childminder promotes their learning in numeracy and problem solving through interacting in their play. She makes useful observations on their progress in learning, combining her notes with photographs and examples of children's work, thereby creating a visual picture of their ongoing development. She assesses children's stages of development, identifying their next steps of learning, although, she is not yet using these effectively to plan for children's individual learning.

The childminder is vigilant concerning children's safety. She checks her premises regularly for any possible risks, and assesses outings, although, she does not maintain a record of her risk assessments showing the aspects checked and any actions taken. Children practise an evacuation plan so that they know what to do

in an emergency and have an increasing awareness of personal safety, for instance, adhering to safety rules when out walking. The childminder has appropriate medical procedures in place and offers healthy and nutritious meals. Children enjoy growing and harvesting food plants and this helps them to learn about a healthy lifestyle. They enjoy physical activity both indoors and outdoors, especially dancing and trips to the park. The childminder's consistent approach towards behaviour management results in children learning to behave responsibly and respecting the needs and feelings of others.

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?	2
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?	2
How well are children helped to be healthy?	2
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	1
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	1
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 (welfare of children, suitability and safety of premises and equipment).

20/03/2009

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 (welfare of children, suitability and safety of premises and equipment).

20/03/2009

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.