

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY362674
Inspection date	14/01/2009
Inspector	Liz Corr
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 2007. She lives in a four bedroom town house in the N1 area of the London borough of Islington. She lives with her two adult children. The entrance to the premises is accessed at street level with stairs leading to the entrance. The whole of the ground floor, the kitchen on the lower ground floor and the bathroom on the first floor are used for childminding. Children also have access to an enclosed garden but this is currently not being used.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time. The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and on the voluntary and compulsory parts of the Childcare Register. She is currently caring for three children in the early years age group. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association. The family have a pet cat.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The childminder provides a welcoming environment where children access an adequate range of play materials and activities. They are relaxed and at ease in her care. Children enjoy taking part in a variety of activities and outings, but the childminder does not follow the Early Years Foundation Stage guidance to monitor children's achievements and plan activities that help them make good progress towards the early learning goals. Parents are provided with daily feedback about their child's progress. The childminder has not developed formal systems to evaluate her service and identify improvements.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- develop knowledge of the Early Years Foundation Stage guidance to record children's starting points, plan, monitor and assess their progress, provide suitable activities and resources to promote their development, and fully develop partnership working
- continue to develop equal opportunities by providing equipment and activities to promote children's understanding of the wider world
- make available to parents a written statement that provides details of the procedure to be followed if they have a complaint
- continue to develop risk assessments both indoors and out to identify aspects of the environment that need to be checked on a regular basis. Ensure that a record is kept of how children will be kept safe when risks occur
- introduce a more hygienic system for the cat litter tray and improve hygiene by providing individual hand towels for hand washing
- continue to develop the process for self evaluation to ensure that there is clear identification of targets for further improvements.

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

- provide a written child protection procedure (Safeguarding and welfare) (also applies to both parts of the Childcare Register)

29/01/2009

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder has developed effective systems for recording the required information for children which enables her to meet their individual needs. For example, she is aware of how to meet children's individual dietary needs by ensuring that they are not provided with foods they are allergic to. Some policies and procedures are available to promote children's welfare such as, a behaviour and emergency evacuation procedure. Although the childminder has an appropriate understanding of how to report any child protection concerns she does not have a written child protection procedure which, is a breach of regulation.

Children are generally kept safe, fire prevention equipment and safety gates are in place. The childminder has developed a basic risk assessment to help promote children's safety in the home. However, she has not clearly identified how she will ensure children's safety when hazards occur. For example, where supplies of wood are temporarily stored in the kitchen. Children are reminded of how to keep safe on outings as they learn about road safety and safe ways of crossing roads. However she has not developed a formal risk assessment for activities outside the home.

Children's good health is promoted as the childminder has a sound understanding of how to administer first aid and has an up to date first aid certificate. Appropriate documentation is available to record any accidents and medication. A sickness procedure is shared with parents which ensures they are cared for at home when they are unwell. Children are learning the importance of good hygiene as they are encouraged to wash their hands regularly especially before snacks and meals. However, the arrangements for the storage of the litter tray in the kitchen is not hygienic and children are not provided with individual hand towels after hand washing to prevent the risk of cross infection.

The childminder has not developed formal systems for evaluating her service to identify improvements. However, she intends to increase her play equipment to provide children with a wider variety of play experiences, including resources to promote children's understanding of the wider world. The childminder has begun to develop links with the local authority in order to access support to further develop her service, including further training in child protection and the introduction of the Early Years Foundation Stage.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children enjoy their time at the setting and are confident in the childminder's care. They receive positive attention from the childminder during activities which increases their interest and enjoyment. She encourages them to talk about their pictures while they draw at an easel. The childminder gets down to the children's level and asks questions to promote their learning as they talk about the colours of the flowers and the rainbow in their picture. Children are provided with regular opportunities to socialise and enjoy a wider range of play experiences as they attend local drop-in groups on a daily basis. During activities the childminder chats to the children about their individual interests. For example, she talks to one child about their favourite colours. Consequently children are becoming confident as they interact with her as they know she is interested in them. Although the childminder ensures the children access a suitable range of activities both inside and outside the home, she does not follow the Early Years Foundation Stage guidance to monitor children's achievements and plan activities that help children make good progress towards the early learning goals.

The childminder demonstrates a sound understanding of behaviour management. Children receive positive attention and are praised throughout their activities. They are rewarded with stickers when they wash their hands well. This helps promote their self esteem and promotes their good behaviour. Children are developing awareness of a healthy lifestyle as they are provided with healthy snacks and meals. They enjoy choosing from the selection of fresh fruit at snack time and are able to easily access drinks when they are thirsty. They are developing physical skills as they regularly attend local parks where they run, jump and climb.

Effective partnerships are being developed with parents in order to promote children's welfare. Daily discussion takes place to ensure that relevant information and children's progress are shared. However, systems have not been developed for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage to share children's starting points to help plan and monitor their progress and share this with parents on a regular basis. The childminder has the required documentation for recording complaints however, she has not provided parents with a complaints procedure, including details of the regulator.

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?	3

Quality and standards

How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?	3
How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?	3
How well are children helped to stay safe?	3
How well are children helped to be healthy?	3
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	3
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:

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 29/01/2009

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 29/01/2009

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 registration.

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.