

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	118029
Inspection date	21/01/2009
Inspector	Christine Bonnett
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 1997. She lives with her husband and three young adult children in the London borough of Ealing. She is registered on the Early Years Register and the voluntary and compulsory parts of the Childcare Register.

The whole of the ground floor flat is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed communal garden for outside play. A flight of external steps leads up to the front door of the block.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding five children in the early years age group and four children in the later years age group. All children attend on a part time basis.

The childminder walks to local schools to drop off and collect children. She attends the local parent and toddler group. The family has no pets.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Children engage enthusiastically in a variety of stimulating and fun play activities and experiences that support their learning in all areas. Each child is recognised as a unique individual and receives warm and caring support. The childminder has the capacity to self-evaluate her practice and build upon her existing skills for the children's benefit.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- develop the existing risk assessments to identify particular aspects of the environment both indoors and on trips, that the children have regular access to, to help promote safety
- develop knowledge and understanding of diversity and inclusion to enhance the skills required to meet the diverse needs of all children.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder's energy and enthusiasm for her work is transmitted to the children in her care. Consequently, they too are enthusiastic to learn and make good progress in all areas. They are offered a rich variety of both adult-led and free play activities.

The childminder believes that there is always room to increase and develop her skills. She has identified that she would like to expand her knowledge and understanding of diversity and inclusion to ensure that she is fully able to meet the

needs of any and every child she might be asked to look after. She has also enhanced her record keeping since the last inspection to promote the well-being of the children.

The childminder recognises that the welfare of children is paramount and must be safeguarded. She has a good understanding of child protection matters and the procedure for reporting concerns. She also carries out evacuation drills from her home to help children learn how to keep themselves safe in an emergency. Although risk assessments have been conducted to identify and minimise obvious safety hazards in her home and on outings, they are not sufficiently specific to her premises or the venues she regularly visits to secure children's safety at all times.

Effective relationships are established with parents to ensure the care given to each individual child is appropriate and consistent. All relevant information is exchanged on a daily basis to keep all parties well informed.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children enjoy an action packed, stimulating and fun day in the childminder's care. They learn continuously through their play indoors and the wide variety of outings organised for them. For example, a walk to the local shops is used as a way of promoting healthy eating as the children choose the fruit or vegetable they would like to have as a snack. They also learn the pleasure to be gained from physical exercise as they go to Wacky Warehouse, swimming and skating. Kew Gardens is also visited, where they not only enjoy outdoor play, but also increase their knowledge of the natural world as they 'listen to the trees'.

The childminder promotes children's personal and social skills as each week she takes them out for a meal, for example in a Chinese or Thai restaurant. They not only experience different cuisines and learn about the wider world, they also learn valuable social skills for the future.

The childminder observes each child at play, assesses their level of development and plans the next step in their individual learning journey. Each activity is linked to the six areas of learning. The system used clearly identifies each child's starting point and the progress they make. The childminder has a good knowledge of the six areas of learning, and appreciates that one well planned and resourced activity, such as cooking, will encompass all the areas. In addition, the childminder has made effective links with the pre-school that the children attend to ensure continuity and coherence in their learning.

Children receive warm, affectionate care and appropriate and gentle support is given to those who are unwell. The childminder knows each child's individual needs very well and ensures she gives each one personal, focussed time during the busy day to ensure they feel valued and secure.

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?	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:	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

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.