

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY289555
Inspection date	08/01/2009
Inspector	Laura Brewer
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 husband and three children aged 13, 11 and seven years. The property is a house, situated in a residential area in Beckenham, close to local shops, schools and transport services.

The whole of the house is available for minding purposes, except the main bedroom. The living room, dining room and conservatory are used as the main play areas. Toilet facilities are provided upstairs. There is an enclosed garden for physical play opportunities. The family have two dogs.

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 five children under eight years old. Currently the childminder cares for children in the early years age group. All children attend on a part-time basis.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and holds a current first aid qualification.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The childminder effectively promotes all aspects of children's learning, development and welfare. Her clear knowledge of the children's individual needs ensures that they have a good range of learning opportunities and they are safe and secure in her care. There is a close working partnership with parents, which enhances the care provided for the children. An inclusive service is offered, which enables each child to be valued as an individual. Regular self-evaluation by the childminder ensures that the service is responsive to the needs of children and their parents, and that any areas for improvement are quickly identified and acted upon.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- continue to develop the assessment systems to include children's initial starting points on entry to the provision.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder maintains a high standard of documentation and ensures that records, policies and procedures are comprehensive, up to date and regularly reviewed. She makes very good use of local training opportunities to continually develop her knowledge and skills. For instance, courses undertaken have included: training on implementing the Early Years Foundation Stage, policies and portfolios, equal opportunities and observation, assessment and planning.

The childminder's self-assessment takes into account the views of parents and is very effective in identifying strengths and weaknesses. She is strongly committed to further development of the service she provides. She ensures she is up to date with changes so that all requirements are consistently met to a high standard. Partnerships with parents are well established and ensure each child's individual needs are taken into account. There is a good two-way flow of information, knowledge and expertise between parents and the childminder, which ensures children experience consistent care and parents are very well informed.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children's care and welfare is enhanced by the childminder's good practice and strong commitment to keeping them safe, promoting their good health and ensuring they make good progress in their learning. Children are safe and well cared for at the childminder's home. They grow in confidence and independence as they move freely and safely around the home due to very effective safety precautions and the childminder's diligence. They have excellent opportunities to learn about safety issues. For example, they have completed a road safety project where they made road signs and explored road safety issues in the garden using the resources they had created. Children's health and well-being is given high priority. They learn about food that is good for them as they share fruit for a snack and have discussions about healthy eating issues. Children respond well to the childminder's clear guidance and reassurance and their behaviour is good as a result.

The childminder knows the children she looks after very well and they are happy and settled in her care. She supports children's learning effectively and they enjoy a wide range of interesting and stimulating indoor and outdoor activities and experiences that help them make good progress in their development. Children enjoy a variety of outings on a regular basis. They socialise with other children at toddler groups and have opportunities to enjoy the fresh air and be physical as they regularly visit a range of parks and farms. At the childminder's home they help themselves to a wide range of play materials that the childminder ensures are suitable for their age, interests and stage of development. They have access to a good range of creative materials to enable them to develop their self-expressions as they explore a range of creative media. The childminder talks to children as they play and encourages their thought processes through good questioning techniques. Children solve simple problems as they work out which pieces of a train track fit together and the childminder ensures she plays with the children at their level in a supportive way. Children's language is promoted as the childminder reinforces key words and helps them to understand new ideas and concepts.

The childminder makes regular observations and takes photos of children's achievements in order to monitor their progress. These are used to assist her with the activity planning to support children's next steps for learning. During the admission stage, the childminder gains information from parents about children's individual needs and routines. However, information gained about their

developmental stages is limited to demonstrate their starting points on entry to the provision.

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?	1
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

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

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.