

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	137463
Inspection date	29/06/2009
Inspector	Maria Therese Conroy
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 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 has been registered since 1997. She works jointly with her husband who is also registered as a childminder. She is registered to provide care for a maximum of six children under eight years old, of those three may be in the early years when working independently and seven children under eight years when working with her husband. The childminder is currently caring for three children in the early years age range and one older child.

The childminder lives with her husband and two adult children in a house in Dollis Hill in the London Borough of Brent. It is within walking distance of public transport and there is parking available in the street. Childminding takes place on the ground floor of the premises. Children have access to a large through lounge, conservatory/playroom, a kitchen and the toilet. There is a fully enclosed rear garden available for outdoor play. The family have no pets. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register, compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is outstanding. The childminder provides outstanding care and education for all children who attend. She has a thorough understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), therefore the learning and development opportunities are exceptional and support each child's individual development and interests. The childminder works in partnership with her husband and they successfully work together to provide creative and effective opportunities to promote and stimulate children's learning in all areas of the curriculum. The systems in place for assessing quality have already enabled the childminder to identify areas for improvements such as improving knowledge of how to implement the curriculum more effectively by reading information from a variety of sources.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

To further improve the high quality early years provision the registered person should consider:

- further develop the use of evaluation to continually improve the activities provided

The leadership and management of the early years provision

Children are fully safeguarded due to the excellent systems in place to protect them. For example children are always supervised by either the childminder or her husband, who is also a registered childminder. Visitors who enter the premises

have their identity checked by the childminder and they sign the visitors' record when they arrive at the premises. The childminder has a secure knowledge and understanding of safeguarding issues and risk assessments are undertaken both in the home and for the outings undertaken by the children; which ensures that any identified hazards are minimised.

The childminder is exceptionally pro-active in making links with other professionals involved with the children, which successfully supports specific developmental needs and promotes the outcomes for all children. Partnership with parents is inspiring; they take an active role in their child's learning, for example parents contribute to celebrations of festivals and to the regular reviews undertaken by the childminder.

The childminder consistently involves parents and children in contributing to the process of evaluating the service by asking them to complete a questionnaire thus enabling her to continually make improvements to her practice. The childminder is motivated and actively seeks out information to improve her knowledge and understanding of the EYFS and to enable her to provide a stimulating and challenging environment.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children concentrate for long periods of time, because the activities provided are challenging, exciting and individually tailored to each child's developmental needs. The childminder has an excellent understanding of the EYFS, which she incorporates into the activities she provides to effectively promote all six areas of learning to provide a stimulating environment. Wonderful trusting relationships have been developed within this home based family environment. This enables children to maximise their learning potential as they feel safe and secure and confident to explore, investigate and try new things.

The childminder undertakes systematic observations which are analysed and evaluated to identify the next steps for children's individual development in all areas of learning. The observations are complemented by photographic evidence, enabling parents to have an insight into the activities their child has taken part in. This information feeds into the regular reviews undertaken with parents ensuring that parents are part of planning for their children's learning journey.

Children have access to a wide range of activities to promote a positive attitude to diversity and increase their awareness of their own culture and that of others. They have great fun as they celebrate various festivals such as 'Burns Day', children dance to Scottish music and taste shortbread. The childminder and her husband both care for the children effectively, which enables them to provide positive role models to both boys and girls.

The childminder knows the children and their families exceptionally well; for example she is aware of children's specific needs to enable her to provide consistently high quality care and attention to every child. Children take part in fun activities to support them in learning how to keep themselves safe, they participate

in road safety awareness activities including the 'stop and go game' and discussion about why they have to wear sun cream and hats in the hot weather.

Children are very confident and independent and their self esteem is actively promoted for example the childminder regularly praises children for their lovely work, which they proudly show to their parents when they collect them. Children are encouraged to have good manners and respect for one another and their friends, they learn about different abilities through reading books such as 'I'm special'; children describe how people talk to each other using sign language, because 'they cannot hear'. The childminder provides an environment which promotes children's independence, taking into account the safety needs of the different ages attending.

The childminder is pro-active in promoting healthy lifestyles; children water and tend to the fruit and flowers growing in the garden. They attend music and movement sessions, make regular visits to the park where they go on nature walks, feed the ducks and have daily opportunities for playing in the garden. Parents are given information on providing healthy food for their children's lunches and the children are regularly re-hydrated with fresh drinking water throughout the day.

The childminder effectively promotes children's physical, social and economic development because of their transparent understanding of how children's positive learning experiences at such a young age has an impact on their future development and their long term attitude to learning.

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?	1
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	1
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	1

Leadership and management

How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?	1
How effective is the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement?	1
How well does the setting work in partnership with parents and others?	1
How well are children safeguarded?	1

Quality and standards

How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?	1
How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?	1
How well are children helped to stay safe?	1
How well are children helped to be healthy?	1
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?	1

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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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