

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	112065
Inspection date	19/03/2009
Inspector	Christine Coram
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 2001. She lives with her husband and two children, aged 22 years and 13 years. They live in a cottage on the outskirts of New Milton within walking distance of the local park, schools and shops. The ground floor rooms are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The family has cats, dogs, ducks and chickens. The childminder attends a local parent and carer group on a regular basis.

The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and on the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. She can care for three children in the early years age range and a total of six children. She is currently minding five children, of whom four are in the early years age range. She occasionally works with an assistant.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall, the quality of the provision is good. Children are consistently occupied with exceptionally interesting and stimulating creative activities that support their development. They are happy, enthusiastic and develop wonderful relationships with their peers. The childminder knows all the children well and effectively meets their needs. She is extremely motivated to improve, and is currently undertaking a level 3 qualification to support her work.

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 system for assessing children's progress in all the areas of learning
- develop a system to share information about children's development with the other settings they attend.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder is able to evaluate her practice well and has effective plans in place to increase her knowledge and skills through continued training. She is currently undertaking level 3 training in home-based childcare. Children benefit because the childminder is well organised, calm and confident in her care. Resources are easily to hand when they are required and children can access a wide range safely for themselves.

There is continuity in children's care because the childminder works in effective partnership with parents and carers. The parents state that they are very happy with the care that their children receive and the activities they enjoy. Safety is a high priority for the childminder and she is motivated to make sure that they are

protected in all ways. This includes her knowledge of safeguarding issues. She protects them from possible harm or abuse.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The children have wonderful learning experiences as they enjoy freedom to explore and experiment with creative materials. The childminder plans many craft activities and responds to the children's requests. For example, a two-year-old stated that they wanted to make a frog and immediately she provided crayons, glue and collage materials for the child, and cut the shape. The child was more than satisfied and proud of her work. She was even more delighted to have her face painted as a frog, as well.

The childminder is very clear about each child's strengths and areas to develop. She writes detailed observations about what they do, but has limited understanding of evaluating these according to the Early Years Foundation Stage. As a result, her aims for the children may not be consistent across the areas of learning. Children are involved in extremely purposeful play throughout the day. They are incredibly motivated and have high expectations of the range of activities that the childminder can provide. This is clearly based on their experience of the variety available. Through these activities, the children learn many skills and develop in different ways. For example, a four-year-old stated that the duck pond is a triangle. A three-year-old feeds the chickens and is fascinated by them, asking why one has a red crop. The children listen with interest to the answer. The children are very sociable and play happily together.

The childminder promotes the outcomes for children extremely well. Children learn to keep themselves safe, instructing each other about how to use equipment safely and holding the gate open so that another child is not shut in it. They also learn to promote their own health through many discussions about healthy eating as they tuck into healthy snacks. They know that they must wash their hands after feeding the chickens. They behave extremely well. They are remarkably sociable and play well together at all times. They demonstrate a real understanding of the needs of others, for example, a three-year-old helps a younger child with her shoes. Children know that their choices will be valued as so much of the day is child initiated. This means that they grow in confidence and this will support their learning in the future.

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?	1
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	2
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:	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.