

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	138057
Inspection date	23/02/2009
Inspector	Patricia Ann Edward
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 registered in 1989. She lives with her husband and adult son in the London borough of Merton. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's home is used for childminding and first floor bedroom and bathroom. The master bedroom and the garden are not used for childminding purposes.

The childminder may care for up to five children on the Early Years Register. She is also registered to care for older children on the Childcare and the Voluntary Childcare registers. There are currently two children aged under five years on roll.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is good. The childminder provides effectively for children in her care, ensuring that they are happy and make progress in their learning. She offers an inclusive environment with a selection of organised and free choice play activities where every child feels valued. She has put in place an observation and planning system, although individual planning is not yet fully developed. Her partnership with parents is good consequently, they feel welcome and informed. The childminder is in the early stages of self evaluating her practice, to continually improve her practice and positive outcomes for all children.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- make further use of observations to plan for children's learning experiences across the six areas of learning and ensure next steps identified for learning are shared with parents.
- further develop procedures to ensure that written risk assessments are completed on outings

The leadership and management of the early years provision

Most of the required policies and records are in place and all, with exception of the risk assessments for outings, are implemented effectively to underpin the efficient management of the setting. However, the measures and procedures followed by the childminder ensure that children remain safe and well protected. Highlighted through discussion it is clear that the childminder has reflected on her practice and has begun to evaluate the provision, identifying areas of improvement. For example, work is soon to commence on the outdoor area to provide additional space for children to play. The childminder has a good understanding of safeguarding children. She has knowledge of the signs and symptoms in all areas of abuse and is fully aware of procedures to follow if concerns are raised. As a result, children are protected well.

Children benefit from the excellent relationship established between the childminder and their parents and carers. Verbal exchange of information is shared with them each day. Settling in procedures are implemented and this helps the childminder to get to know them extremely well. Parents have access to the policies and procedures. They have access to pictorial information through the children's work folders and albums which demonstrate how well their child is progressing. From the numerous thank you cards and written references it is clear that parents are extremely satisfied with the service that is offered.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children are supported well in their learning through the childminder's good knowledge and understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage. The childminder provides a good range of adult and child initiated activities to further develop children's learning. The warm and caring relationship that has been established with children ensures that all feel happy and secure. The organised home offers children plenty of space in which to play, and they have easy access to some quality toys and resources. The childminder works closely with parents to find out about children's individual interests and abilities. The childminder completes regular observation on children across the six areas of learning and appropriate next steps are identified. However, this information, is not currently effectively used to plan relevant and motivating learning experiences for each child, so that children's learning can be more consistently supported and extended.

Children are developing an awareness of effective hand washing hygiene routines by the childminder consistently encouraging them to wash their hands before eating food and after using the potty. They are further protected from the risk of cross infection through the implementation of sick children's policy, which excludes children that are unwell. This contributes to children's well-being. Children are beginning to learn how to keep themselves safe from harm, through the childminder teaching them to evacuate the premises in the event of an emergency although these are not recorded. The childminder interacts effectively with children, asking questions and engaging them in conversation to support and promote their language and communication skills. Children of all ages love books and have access to a wide range of age appropriate books. The children celebrate a wide range of festivals such as Chinese New Year, Christmas and Diwali. This along with the good range of resources, which reflect positive images, helps children learn about the wider world and how to respect others. Children's social skills are developing well because they socialise on a daily basis, as they meet people from their community during visits to various groups.

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 that required the provider to take any actions.

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.