

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	109425
Inspection date	04/03/2009
Inspector	Cheryl Walker
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 1998. She lives with her husband and three children. They live in a house in Twickenham, close to local shops, schools and parks. Mainly the ground floor of the home is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The family have a dog, two cats and fish as pets. The childminder attends drop in groups, toy libraries and a toddler gym on a regular basis.

The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. She is currently caring for three children in the early years age group.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is good. Children's needs are well met because the childminder recognises the uniqueness of every child. They make good progress in their learning and development as an environment which supports learning is provided. Clear policies and procedures are available to parents which underpin the service and good systems for communication are in place. The childminder effectively recognises strengths and weaknesses to work towards continuous improvement.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- further develop the systems for observation and assessment to enable clear identification of learning priorities

The leadership and management of the early years provision

Children and their parents are welcomed into the childminder's home. Their safety and well-being are of high priority. The childminder provides a safe and comfortable environment, which is organised effectively to support children in their play. Children are helped to move forward and their development is encouraged, as a result of the childminder's understanding about how children learn. She successfully achieves a good balance of adult-led and child-initiated play opportunities, which further develop children's independence and interests. Children are well supported and interested in the activities available to them.

The childminder has an in depth knowledge of each child's individual needs and she is committed to working closely with parents to ensure they make good progress in their learning journey. A contact book is used to compliment the communication between parents and the childminder.

Although no written form of self-evaluation currently takes place, the childminder regularly reflects on her practice. Improvements to resources which reflect diversity have been made since the last inspection, which enhance children's knowledge and understanding of difference.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children's safety is paramount. The childminder is vigilant in her supervision of the children and she maintains the premises so they provide a safe place for children to play. Safety gates are effectively used to keep children in designated areas at any one time, appropriate to the age of the children attending. A written risk assessment is conducted of the premises with a clear record of hazards identified and action taken. The childminder is clear about her responsibilities for safeguarding children, is aware of the referral process and knows which agencies to contact if she has any concerns.

Children learn how to keep themselves safe as the childminder uses clear explanation at a level that children understand to talk about dangers. For example, she talks to older children about keeping small toys away from the youngest children so that they do not put them into their mouths. Basic and relevant house rules are in place, so that children learn to respect their environment and the people around them.

The childminder demonstrates a sound understanding of the six areas of learning and plans activities to ensure these are well covered. She is beginning to record observations of children's play and achievements, though these are not yet fully developed to clearly identify learning priorities.

Children learn about their environment and their local community through local trips to the park and farm, for example. They regularly visit local groups, which provide good opportunities for their social and emotional development. Children make good progress in their creative learning as they are able to experiment with paints during activities. They dip their fingers in and out of the paint pots, paint their hands and explore the textures. The childminder extends children's vocabulary as she offers words to describe children's actions as they play, which children then repeat and learn.

Children's health is effectively promoted. They benefit from healthy meals and snacks and plenty of fresh air and exercise throughout their week. The childminder talks to children about the need to stay healthy and introduces them to simple hygiene routines, such as washing hands before meals and after using the toilet. Children begin to understand about cleanliness and routines as they independently put on aprons and wash their hands before and after activities.

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.