

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	128327
Inspection date	29/01/2009
Inspector	Amanda Jane Gray
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).

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 was registered in 1996. She lives with her adult son in a bungalow in a residential area of Upminster within walking distance of schools, shops and railway station. All areas of the property are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. Disabled access may be limited as there is a small step into the house, however, toilet facilities are on the ground floor.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding five children aged one, two, four, five, and seven years on a full and part-time basis. The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register, the compulsory and the voluntary parts Childcare Register. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The family have no pets.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The childminder makes satisfactory provision for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage. Children are cared for in a warm and welcoming environment and have opportunities to play and learn, supporting their overall development. The childminder recognise the uniqueness of each child and effectively gather information from parents from the outset to enable her to meet the children's individual needs.

The childminder has begun to consider using the self-evaluation form to clearly illustrate her practice and identify further improvements she wishes to make.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- develop children's planning and observation assessments to help each child make progress towards the early learning goals.
- conduct a risk assessment and review it regularly
- ensure written permission is obtained from parents for trips out.

To fully meet the specific requirements of the EYFS, the registered person must:

- ensure that a full risk assessment is carried out for each outing undertaken (Safeguarding and welfare) 13/02/2009
- implement an effective policy for safeguarding children in line with LSCB local guidance and procedures(Safeguarding and welfare) 13/02/2009

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder adequately organises her time, space and resources to manage her childminding practice effectively in relation to children's learning and development as well as the welfare requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS).

A range of verbal policies and procedures are in place to support children and the childminder has obtained a range of written parental consents, however, written parental consent for trips out is still outstanding. Information about the children's needs and progress generally flows well between home and the childminder, ensuring parents are aware of their child's day and overall welfare.

Children are safeguarded in this setting because the childminder has clear understanding of child protection and the signs and symptoms of abuse. However, the lack of an effective policy for safeguarding children in line with LSCB local guidance and procedures does compromise the childminders effective response in the event of any concerns. The childminder carries out informal risk assessments of her home and when on outings to ensure hazards to children are minimised. These are currently not in writing.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children receive suitable and consistent care, learning and play experiences. Appropriate arrangements are in place prior to children starting at the childminders, ensuring that the transition from home is smooth and successful for children. The childminder creates a warm and welcoming play and learning environment where children are settled, confident and secure. Children's positive behaviour is valued and inclusion is suitably promoted.

The childminder has an understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage, early childhood development and how children play and learn. However, planning, assessment and observation records are not being used to enable children to make consistent progress across the six areas of learning.

Overall, children make satisfactory progress in their learning and development. The home indoors is safe, appropriately resourced and organised to interest the children and promote areas of learning. They have daily opportunities to express their thoughts and feelings as the childminder provides one to one attention and spends time with them during activities, for example, talking about families. There are daily opportunities for outdoor play helping children's overall physical development. Children stay healthy because the childminder has extremely good hygiene procedures, which are followed rigorously. Children are encouraged to wash their hands before eating and reminded to do the same after they have used the toilet. Baby wipes are used to ensure hygiene. Nutritious snacks are provided with continual access to fresh drinking water or juice throughout the day.

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?	3
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	3
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	3

Leadership and management

How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?	3
How effective is the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement?	3
How well does the setting work in partnership with parents and others?	3
How well are children safeguarded?	3

Quality and standards

How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?	3
How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?	3
How well are children helped to stay safe?	3
How well are children helped to be healthy?	3
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	3
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	3
How well are children helped develop skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being?	3

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

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the National Standards.

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.

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.