

Inspection report for early years provision

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| Unique reference number | 153914 |
| Inspection date | 02/03/2009 |
| Inspector | Sandra Daniels |
| 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 was registered in 2001. She lives with her partner and two children aged 14 and nine years in Hainault, Essex. The family has two small dogs as pets. The whole of the premises is registered for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. Access to the premises is via a small step into the hallway and there is a downstairs bathroom for children to use. The home is situated near to the local shops, and is within walking distance of the train station and bus routes. The childminder is registered to care for six children under eight years and is currently caring for six children, some of whom attend on a part-time basis. She is also registered to provide overnight care. The childminder also cares for children in the older age group during out-of-school hours. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association. She is registered on the Early Years Register and both the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is good. The childminder promotes children's welfare and learning with success. The childminder recognises the uniqueness of each child and provides care and education which is aimed at them as individuals. She clearly values diversity and is effective in ensuring that all children are well-integrated and achieving as much as they can. On-going, appropriate reflection of her practice enables the childminder to identify strengths and areas for development.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- update the safeguarding policy to reflect the guidelines of the Local Safeguarding Children Board.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

Children have very close relationships with the childminder who is committed to meeting the needs of all the children. The childminder has a positive, professional approach to her role which helps lay the foundations for children's future economic well-being. Good progress has been made since the last inspection and the use of self-evaluation enables the childminder to reflect on her practice. Generally comprehensive and robust policies support practice and are shared with parents. All required documents are in place, including a risk assessment of the premises and for various trips and outings. Daily visual checks are also made to ensure that children are playing in a safe and secure environment.

Children learn about keeping safe as the childminder talks to them and gives clear

explanations. Fire safety is considered as the childminder has an emergency evacuation procedure which is practised regularly with the children. The childminder is aware what she must do if she has concerns that a child is at risk from abuse and is fully aware of her responsibility to protect children.

Very good links exist with parents. A clear exchange of information, including the use of photographs sent via mobile phones, keeps the parents well-informed about the activities their child has participated in and any achievements they have made. All records are available for parents and the childminder discusses ways in which they can further support learning at home.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The childminder gathers detailed information about children's development when they first start, as well as any specific requirements to support their welfare and routines. This ensures individual needs are met and promotes inclusion for all. Children enjoy healthy meals prepared using fresh ingredients. For example, chicken casserole, which is also blended to the correct consistency for the baby. Drinks are freely available at all times. Good quality toys and resources are well-maintained and a suitable sick child policy is in place in order to prevent the spread of illnesses. Children learn about keeping safe as they play with the puppets from the traffic club. They begin to understand why they must use seat belts and sit in appropriate seats for their age whilst travelling in the childminder's car. The childminder praises children regularly and as a result, they gain self-esteem and confidence. Children are encouraged to have respect for others, use good manners and share their toys.

The childminder involves herself in children's play as she supports their learning by using appropriate questioning and demonstrating tasks, for example, helping babies to post shapes and look at books. The childminder is very in tune with babies' needs and meets them affectionately. She ensures that learning is fun; for instance, babies and toddlers giggle and laugh as they thoroughly enjoy exploring through tunnels and inside tents. Children of all ages access attractive and colourful toys independently because they are placed at their level. Older children are able to help themselves to resources from toy boxes and shelves. Children are increasing their problem solving skills as they do puzzles, stack cups and build with bricks. There are many opportunities for them to count, recognise colours, shapes and numbers. Children enjoy colouring and painting, which helps them to develop their early writing skills.

The childminder's good understanding of physical development helps children to gain confidence and attain new successes. Children enjoy daily outdoor exercise as they climb, balance and slide at the park or in the garden. Babies are supported as they learn to walk using push-along toys. Children find out about their community on local outings, for example, the play centre where they socialise with other children their own age. Children are making good progress towards the early learning goals with the childminder's care and support.

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

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| 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

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| 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

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| 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

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| 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.