

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	140154
Inspection date	28/01/2009
Inspector	Anneliese Fox-Jones
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 first registered in 1969. She lives with her husband in a house in the Muswell Hill area of North London within walking distance of shops, amenities and public transport. She co-minds with two other childminders from these premises. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding. There is a playroom, kitchen and dining room and a dedicated sleep room for those requiring undisturbed sleep. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. Access to the premises is by a separate side entry via a paved path and one step.

The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and both the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register to provide care for a maximum of three children under eight years at any one time. When working together two other childminders she is registered to care for a maximum of nine children under eight years. There are currently 20 children on roll in the early years age group, who attend for a variety of sessions. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is good. Children in this setting happily make good progress in their play and learning because the childminder is committed to meeting their individual needs. The childminder works closely with two other childminders to ensure all children are valued and their care and developmental needs are sensitively met; together they create a welcoming and friendly environment for all children and families. The childminder prepares interesting activities for children which excites their interests. Children's welfare is generally promoted through the maintenance of appropriate documentation, however, the childminder's first aid certificate has expired. The childminder is developing appropriate self-evaluation systems in order to monitor her practice. She promotes children's learning and development by using her developing knowledge and understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS).

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- develop ongoing observations and assessments to identify children's learning priorities/next steps and use these to plan relevant and motivating learning experiences for each child
- maintain regular risk assessments that cover anything which a child may come into contact with.

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

- complete first aid training that is approved by the local authority and consistent with guidance set out in the

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Practice Guidance for the Early Years Foundation
Stage (Safeguarding and promoting children's welfare)
(also applies to both parts of the Childcare Register)

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder ensures that children enjoy a safe and accessible environment that encourages their independence. For example, resources are stored safely around the perimeter of the play area or on shelving, so that children can readily select what they want to play with. Various written policies also underpin the childminder's practice well. However, whilst the childminder prioritises safety and carries out visual safety checks, she does not maintain regular risk assessments in all areas that the children may come into contact with. In addition, the childminder's first aid certificate has expired. However, children's health is not at risk because she has previously undertaken first aid training on several occasions.

Through her self-evaluation process the childminder is beginning to develop an understanding of the strengths of her practice and areas for improvement. Since her last inspection she updated her knowledge on the Birth to Three matters and has attended an awareness day on the EYFS. The quality of children's care is likely to continue to improve as the childminder is clear about the areas she would like to develop.

Children are effectively safeguarded by the valuable measures that the childminder has in place. Emergency evacuation drills are practised with the children to promote their understanding of keeping safe, and the childminder promotes their understanding of road safety when out walking. The childminder has established secure and professional relationships with parents and carers. They are encouraged to share what they know about their child, particularly when the child first starts to attend so that the childminder is able to meet their children's individual needs and help them to settle easily. They are appropriately informed about what their child has been doing or eaten through their daily discussions with the childminder. Photographs of children at play and information around the activities offered gives parents an insight into the world in which children participate in. Parents demonstrate that they are extremely happy with the care their children receive, in particular the large family atmosphere and warm and caring environment.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The childminder provides a welcoming, bright and interesting play environment which encourages children to enjoy and become confident. Children are making good progress towards most areas of the early learning goals. The environment is effectively organised and encourages exploration, both in and out doors, where children enjoy a mix of self-chosen and adult-led activities. The childminder knows the children's needs well and uses this knowledge to prepare appropriate activities. However, observations and assessments systems are not fully embedded and used

to effectively plan the next stages in children's learning and development.

Children's welfare and well-being is appropriately promoted. Children develop a real sense of belonging. The childminder responds to their interests and conversation and this helps children to develop a close relationship with her. They learn to keep themselves safe through discussions and practical experiences within their everyday routines. In addition, children's safety is effectively monitored as the home is fitted with a video camera system, which is used to observe visitors on the premises. An awareness of good hygiene is promoted and children enjoy a healthy snack each day. Children eat well in the childminder's care. The childminder ensures that all dietary needs are met appropriately and babies being weaned are given a variety of freshly prepared vegetable and fruit purees. Children have many opportunities to fresh air and exercise as they frequently visit local parks, woods and the community, where they increase their knowledge and understanding of the environment. Children are confident and secure in their relationships with the childminder and are learning how to form positive relationships with other children through the sensitive support the childminder offers. Children are happy and safe in a healthy environment that the childminder provides.

The childminder interacts well with the children. Children are learning right from wrong whilst feeling confident and affirmed. This is because the childminder has a gentle rapport with children and they respond well to her affection and guidance. Children enjoy her enthusiasm and benefit from her ability to use opportunities to promote learning. For example, she encourages counting as children count how many fish fingers on their plate and buttons on their coat. In this way she helps children to develop an awareness of language use and problem solving. Young children who are not yet walking have appropriate furniture to help them manoeuvre around their space. In this way their mobility and physical skills are developing well through the encouragement the childminder provides. Children are learning new words and ways of communicating as the childminder chats to them what they are doing, what they have done at nursery or home and they sing songs together. Good use is made of the local and wider community so they can begin to make sense of the world. Children explore the beliefs of their peers through their celebrations and the lives of others through their play, such as puzzles, dressing up and books that portray positive images of people in society or different languages. There is a nice emphasis on acknowledging children's positive behaviour through praise. As a result children gain confidence and self-esteem. Children are supported well because the childminder works in close partnership with their parents and carers to meet children's particular needs.

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:

Not Met (with actions)

The provider confirms that the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register are:

Not Met (with actions)

The registered provider does not meet the requirements of the compulsory and or voluntary part/s of the Childcare Register.

To comply with the requirements of the compulsory part of the Childcare Register, the registered person must take the following action/s by the specified date:

- take action as specified in the early years section of the report (Safeguarding and promoting children's welfare)

13/02/2009

To comply with the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register, the registered person must take the following action/s by the specified date:

- take action as specified in the early years section of the report (Safeguarding and promoting children's welfare)

13/02/2009

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 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.