

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	140307
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).

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 registered in 1990. She works with two childminders in a house in the Muswell Hill area of North London. It is within walking distance of shops, amenities and public transport. 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. The childminder drives to local schools to collect and take children.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is good. Children enjoy exploring the well organised play environment that the childminder provides both indoors and outside. The childminder works closely with two other childminders to ensure all children are included and are making good progress in their learning and development. Children's welfare is generally promoted through the maintenance of appropriate documentation. However, the childminder's first aid certificate has expired. The childminder demonstrates a commitment to monitoring the quality of the provision and is keen to continue to improve her practice so that children continue to develop.

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

13/03/2009

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder together with her co-childminders have made considerable efforts to set up a good quality environment in which children are supported to make progress. The childminder takes overall responsibility for maintaining appropriate records. She is organised and keeps most appropriate records which ensures that children are cared for effectively. For example, essential records for managing attendance, accidents and medication are kept accurately and up-to-date and support the childminder effectively in keeping children safe and managing their health needs. However, whilst the childminder has developed some risk assessments to assist her in managing and reducing hazards to children, it does not cover all aspects that children may come into contact with. The childminder has not yet updated her first aid knowledge because of difficulties in booking an approved paediatric first aid course and consequently her first aid certificate has expired. However, children's health is not at risk because she has previously undertaken training on several occasions.

Children are well protected from harm and abuse in this setting because the childminder is knowledgeable about safeguarding guidelines and procedures. The childminder has started to make effective use of the Ofsted self-evaluation tool to identify her strengths and weaknesses and thereby implement any necessary actions for improvement effectively. Since her last inspection she has updated her knowledge by attending training on the Birth to Three matters and an awareness day on the EYFS.

The childminder builds sound relationships with parents and keeps them well informed about the setting. They are encouraged to share what they know about their child, particularly when the child first starts to attend. The childminder positively uses this information to provide continuity of care and to create a sense of security as she is then familiar with the children's particular likes and dislikes. They are appropriately informed about what their child has been doing or eaten through their daily discussions with the childminder. Parents demonstrate that they are extremely happy with the care their children receive. These positive partnerships help to support children's sense of belonging within the provision.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children are provided with many good opportunities to help them make progress across all areas of learning. A wide variety of resources are stored at a low level around the edges of the play areas and children are confident and independent in choosing what to play with. The childminder knows the children's needs well and uses this knowledge to prepare appropriate activities. The childminder plans an environment that is well match to children's different interests and stages of development. The childminder has begun to record children's achievements and she uses these to keep parents informed. However, observations and assessments systems are not fully embedded and used to effectively plan the next stages in

children's learning and development.

Children easily access a range of resources which support their learning. Even very young children are beginning to enjoy mark making activities and to engage in pretend play as the setting is well resourced and materials are attractively set out. Children are excited to listen to musical tapes and respond with dance. Young children enjoy making the cause and effect toys work and are delighted when something pops up. 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.

Children flourish in the safe, healthy environment that the childminder provides. For example, children learn to keep themselves safe through discussions and practical experiences. Older children learn about road safety as the childminder teaches them how to walk safely when they are within the local community. The childminder has good hygiene measures in place regarding minimising cross infection and encouraging good hygiene, such as placing all equipment used by the children in the large steriliser. Children eat well in the childminder's care. She makes note of children's dietary needs, and when providing meals, prepares freshly cooked foods that include plenty of fruit and vegetables. Children's good health is promoted through their opportunities to be active both indoors and outside, and through their ability to eat and rest in comfort. Young babies are able to sleep comfortably because travel cots are set up in an adjacent room where they can enjoy undisturbed sleep and yet still be closely monitored. Thus overall due attention is given to general well-being. Children respond well to clear explanations and accept being distracted and re-directed. Consequently children are behaving well and supported appropriately to share and take turns.

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)

13/03/2009

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)

13/03/2009

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.