

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	137936
Inspection date	29/01/2009
Inspector	Linda Close

Type of setting	Childminder
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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 1994. She lives with her husband and two adult children in a house that is situated in a residential road in the Merton Park area of southwest London. It is near to local schools, parks and transport links. The local authority is Merton. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding and children have access to the upstairs bathroom. There is an enclosed garden available at the rear of the house for outdoor play. The childminder is registered to care for five children under eight years and three of these can be in the early years age group. She is currently minding four children on a part time basis ranging in age from two years nine months to nine years. The childminder goes to local schools to take and collect children. She attends the local parent and toddler groups, takes children to the library and visits local parks. The family has a dog and several goldfish. The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is good. Children are warmly welcomed into a well organised home environment. The childminder gets to know each child and she helps them to grow in confidence and self-esteem. She plans ahead with care so that activities and outings for younger children are fitted in smoothly with school runs and extra-curricular activities for older children. She helps children to make good progress in their learning and development. The childminder is enthusiastic and fully committed to maintaining the ongoing improvement of her work with children.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- make sure that children cannot access cleaning materials in the bathroom
- ensure that the gaps between the spindles under the bannisters are safe for children
- conduct a risk assessment for each and every venue visited with children
- extend the programme of multi cultural activities to include some that reflect the background of every child attending.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder evaluates most aspects of her provision for children effectively. She has attended useful training courses which have helped to raise her knowledge and understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage framework. She has established a worthwhile system of observing and recording what children do and what they learn when they are in her care. She plans further training to help her to continue to develop her provision for children.

The childminder is well informed about child protection issues. She has adopted a policy and procedure that sets out her safeguarding responsibilities and she shares this information with parents and carers. She has a good knowledge of the signs and symptoms that can indicate abuse and of the procedure to follow for reporting concerns to appropriate agencies.

Parents and carers speak very highly of the childminder. They report that their children are happy, well adjusted and content in her care. Parents rely on the childminder to bridge the gap between home and school and they are very pleased that she supports and extends children's learning in school. The childminder shares information about children's development and progress with their parents on a regular basis.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The childminder gives children good opportunities to make choices and decisions. They can choose from a wide range of good quality toys, puzzles and books and they can take part in valuable adult led activities such as making dough or art and craft play. Older children go independently to the childminder's craft store as soon as they arrive to select materials for creating their own art works. Children benefit from the childminder's open ended questioning. She asks them questions that encourage them to think. She also provides children with time, space and resources to support imaginative play.

The childminder is skilled in behaviour management. She has clear expectations for good manners and politeness and she is a good role model for the children. She patiently reminds them to say please and thank you and praises them warmly for their help at tidy up time. Children play with others at drop in groups and on play dates with other childminders and their children. They learn to share and take turns with other children and to enjoy the give and take aspects of group play.

Children enjoy a varied programme of activities that are chosen to help them to learn about the wider world and various customs and celebrations. They have enjoyed eating noodles at Chinese new year and making greeting cards for special events including Saint Patrick's Day. However, the range of activities does not reflect the background of every child who attends.

The childminder ensures that children do not attend if they are unwell which prevents the unnecessary spread of infection. Standards of cleanliness in the home are very good. Children play and eat in clean surroundings and they wash their hands before eating and after using the toilet. Children ask for wipes if their hands are sticky showing that they learn about self care. They have drinks of fresh water to hand at all times and they enjoy healthy snacks and tasty meals at the childminder's home which meets their dietary needs.

Risk assessments of the home and garden are conducted and the childminder's home is mostly safe and suitable for children. However, the bathroom store cupboard for cleaning materials is not secure and the spindles under the banisters

are wide enough apart to be a hazard. Children talk about bullying at school and about road safety when they are out and about with the childminder which helps them to learn to keep safe. The childminder has made a general risk assessment for outings that are taken with minded children but it has not been carried out for each different venue.

The childminder ensures that children of all ages develop their numeracy skills and have ample writing and mark making opportunities and they are making very good progress in these areas of their learning. They have easy access to an excellent selection of attractive, good quality books. She provides tools for young children to develop their early IT skills. The childminder helps children to make particularly good progress in the development of skills that will contribute to their future economic well being.

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?	1
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?	3
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?	1

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.

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.