

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	135235
Inspection date	08/01/2009
Inspector	Chris Banks
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 1995. She lives with her three children and adult sister in a three bedroom house in the NW8 area of Westminster. The ground floor of the home is exclusively used for childminding purposes. There is also a patio garden for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time. When working with her daughter who is also a registered childminder at the same premises, eight children may be cared for at any one time. She currently cares for three children in the early years age group on a full time basis. She also provides out of school care for two other children on a part time basis.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Children receive very warm, affectionate care and are happy, secure and well settled with the childminder. They are cared for in a setting where individual children's safety and welfare are given extremely high priority. Children enjoy exploring the rich learning environment of the bright, well equipped play room and their overall learning and development is well supported. Parents are kept well informed and are encouraged to be involved in their child's learning and development. There is a strong commitment to build on existing good childcare practice and to continuous improvement.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- continue to develop systems for assessing childrens progress and planning for their next steps.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder is well qualified and demonstrates a very good understanding of how children learn and develop. She is gradually becoming familiar with new requirements governing the care and education of young children and already has some excellent systems for monitoring, recording and assessing children's progress in place. These are now in the process of being updated to reflect the new framework.

Children confidently explore the comfortable, very well organised playroom which is for their exclusive use. The diverse, good quality resources available to children are easily accessible and children enjoy playing a productive part in helping to keep the space tidy and free of any potential hazards.

Policies and procedures relating to children's overall health, safety and welfare are effectively put into practice by the childminder. This includes ensuring fire drills are regularly practised with children and rigorous risk assessments of indoor and outdoor space are carried out. Excellent hygiene standards and a clear sickness policy helps ensure the risk of infection and any spreading of contagious illnesses are minimised. Children are further protected because the childminder has extensive experience of caring for children with specific health needs and is trained in administering some specialist medication. She effectively describes how she would act in a child's best interest should there be an accident or emergency but her current First Aid certificate has recently expired. The overall welfare of children is safeguarded because the childminder has a thorough understanding of child protection issues and is knowledgeable about the steps to take should she have any concerns about a child. The role of Ofsted is also clearly understood.

The childminder has very well established relationships with parents. They receive comprehensive written information about key aspects of the childminding service which also include all relevant policies and procedures relating to the care of their child. The childminder works pro actively to ensure those with English as an additional language receive the support of translators and interpreters where possible.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children benefit from a rich learning environment and the extremely warm and welcoming atmosphere created by the childminder. They are excited and interested in their play and are completely at ease in the child centred setting. Independence skills are very well fostered and children are strongly encouraged to be kind, considerate and caring towards one another.

Children experience a stimulating range of indoor and outdoor activities whilst in the care of the childminder. She understands well how different activities support particular areas of children's learning and makes them fun and interesting for children who are becoming confident communicators. Older children freely express themselves during creative play and spontaneously join in nursery action songs and rhymes whilst completing jigsaws or cooking imaginary meals in the home play area. Children also enjoy extended periods of outdoor physical play on a daily basis in either the very well equipped patio garden or at local parks or drop in centres. Photographs of children happily occupied in a wide range of activities are made freely available to parents from the home computer.

Children's overall learning and development is well supported as they learn new skills because the childminder takes an active interest in what they are doing and uses good communication skills to build their confidence. Older children take pride in demonstrating simple sign language they have learned with the childminder and sometimes share this with younger children or those who do not yet speak English.

Children are valued as individuals. The childminder knows each child very well and has developed routines which take good account of their individual needs. Should

children require extra support, the childminder has previous experience of successfully linking with outside agencies and works sensitively with parents to provide an inclusive service.

Mealtimes are very relaxed, sociable occasions for children who enjoy a well balanced diet which always includes fresh vegetables. The childminder takes effective precautions to protect children with allergies and is knowledgeable about individual dietary requirements. Record keeping in relation to children's health, safety and welfare is of a high standard and is stored confidentially.

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:	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.