

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	124800
Inspection date	29/01/2009
Inspector	Rebecca Elizabeth Khabbazi
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 has been registered since 1992. She lives with her husband and two adult children. They live in a four bedroom house in a residential area of Selsdon. The ground floor of the property is the main area used for childminding. There is a garden available for outdoor play. The family have a cat, a rabbit, a guinea pig, a hamster and a cockatiel.

The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. She is registered to care for six children under eight years old and there are currently a total of five children in the early years age group on roll.

The childminder has a relevant childcare qualification. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The childminder successfully promotes all aspects of children's welfare and development. Her thorough understanding of children's individual needs and capabilities ensures that she offers a welcoming, inclusive environment. Children are happy and secure at the setting and make excellent progress in their learning. The childminder has a good knowledge of her strengths and makes effective use of self-assessment to continually develop and improve the service she provides.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- review arrangements for children to dry their hands, in order to minimise the risk of cross-infection
- ensure a safeguarding policy and procedure is in place that is in line with Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) guidance.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder maintains all of the required records that contribute to children's health, safety and well-being, although safeguarding procedures have not yet been fully updated to ensure they are in line with local guidance. She ensures all household members are appropriately vetted, which helps protect children's welfare. The childminder makes good use of training opportunities to continually develop her knowledge and skills, for instance by attending courses about the Early Years Foundation Stage to ensure she is familiar with new requirements. She reflects on her practice on a regular basis and ensures any areas for improvement are addressed at an early stage. The childminder builds strong partnerships with parents, who are very happy with the care she provides. Effective two-way

communication with parents, and with other partners in children's care and education, ensures that children benefit from consistency and continuity in their experiences.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children are cared for in a welcoming, child-centred environment where they grow in confidence and independence. They move freely and safely around the areas used for childminding because the childminder makes comprehensive checks of the premises and ensures precautions are in place to reduce any potential hazards. Children learn to keep themselves safe when they talk about road safety or take part in a regular evacuation practice. They benefit from freshly prepared home-cooked meals and snacks that help them develop healthy eating habits and ensure their nutritional needs are met. Children learn simple, good hygiene routines when they wash their hands before meal times, although they currently share a towel to dry them, which does not fully protect them from the risk of cross-infection.

Children benefit from a rich and varied learning environment and the childminder's skilled support and guidance ensures they obtain consistently high levels of achievement in relation to their starting points and capabilities. The childminder uses her observations of the children to ensure she plans and provides an excellent range of stimulating, interesting experiences for children that build on their individual learning. Children make sense of the world around them as they act out a visit to the doctor using role play materials, rolling up their sleeve for an injection or using a stethoscope to listen to the beat of the childminder's heart. They develop their early literacy skills as they write and make marks while they play in the 'shop' or the 'post office', listen to stories and choose books from the library. Children enjoy playing outdoors with the sand and water, solving problems in everyday situations and exploring and investigating the natural world. They grow tomato plants and herbs and then use them to make their own pizzas. They express their own ideas and imaginations as they make patterns in paint with string, brushes or their hands. The childminder sets appropriate challenges for all children according to their interests and needs, encourages them to try things for themselves, and effectively guides and supports their learning. As a result, children are highly motivated and engaged in the activities provided and thoroughly enjoy their time at the setting.

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?	1
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?	1
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	1
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
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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.