

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	137935
Inspection date	21/07/2009
Inspector	Helen Deegan
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 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 1998. She lives with her family in New Malden in the London Borough of Merton. Her home is close to shops, parks and public transport links. The whole of the house is used for childminding with the exception of one bedroom. She has a pet cat, rabbit and hamster. Children have access to an enclosed back garden for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding five children on a part time basis. This provision is registered by Ofsted on the Early Years Register and the compulsory part of the Childcare Register.

The childminder collects children from the local school and regularly visits a local toddler group and parks.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is good. The childminder provides a fully inclusive and welcoming service for children. She works closely in partnership with parents to ensure that every child's needs are fully met. The childminder offers an enabling environment for children in which they are making good progress in all areas of their learning and development. She observes children's development and uses the information to plan for the next steps in their learning. She evaluates her provision and attends ongoing training to update her knowledge.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- extend the risk assessment to include the bunk bed and ensure any identified risks are removed

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder provides detailed policy information for new parents and requests concise information from them about their children. This enables her to fully meet their needs. She develops excellent relationships with parents and provides clear written information for them along with photographs so that they are well informed about their children's progress. Furthermore she has made contact with other settings that the children attend to request information which enables her to ensure that her own provision complements theirs. The childminder's practice is highly effective in ensuring that children's individual needs are met and they receive appropriate challenge and stimulation.

The childminder has completed a thorough self-evaluation of her practice and has

highlighted areas in which she hopes to continue improving her provision. She attends ongoing training workshops to update and improve her knowledge. She has a valid first aid certificate and has an excellent understanding of her responsibilities with regard to safeguarding children's welfare. Children's safety is therefore appropriately protected. She completes regular risk assessments and maintains a safe, clean environment for children. However, the risk assessment doesn't specifically address the bunk beds. She thoroughly maintains all the required documentation.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children are happy, confident and relaxed in the childminder's care. An excellent range of equipment is stored neatly so that an accessible and stimulating environment is created. Toys are stored at child height so that children can make decisions and independently select chosen activities. Many of the toys reflect different race, culture and disability so that children gain positive messages about diversity as they play. Children talk enthusiastically about the cucumbers, tomatoes and melons that they have grown and enjoy regular outings to parks and farms. They participate in a wide variety of craft activities and play imaginatively with dressing up clothes, child sized kitchen equipment and a children's workbench with tools. The childminder introduces age appropriate counting and mathematical language into general play activities so that children learn whilst having fun.

The childminder is extremely warm and caring towards the children. She follows their interests and supports them effectively at their play asking questions and naming objects so that their developing language skills are promoted and they are encouraged to think. When a child woke early from their sleep and was upset, the childminder cuddled and rocked them, speaking gently to offer reassurance. The child soon calmed down and engaged happily in play. The childminder knows the children extremely well. She records detailed observations of their achievements and uses the information to plan for the next steps in their learning and development. She works closely with parents, sending detailed written information home daily and asking for their contributions to the children's development records. She then periodically produces an in-depth report on their progress in all areas of learning.

Children's self-esteem is promoted as the childminder speaks positively to them, constantly acknowledging and praising their efforts and achievements. Children behave well because the childminder is calm and consistent. She is skilled in using age appropriate behaviour management strategies such as distraction and explanation so that unwanted behaviour is dealt with quickly and effectively.

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?	1
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	1
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?	2

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Annex B: the Childcare Register

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

Met