

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY305446
Inspection date	18/02/2009
Inspector	Christine Lynne Hodge
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 2005. She lives with her husband and two children aged four and five years in Crayford in the borough of Bexley. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The family has two cats.

The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and both the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. She is registered to care for a maximum of four children under eight years at any one time and is currently minding siblings, one of whom is in the early years age group. The provider currently offers part time care.

She is a member of the National Childminding Association (NCMA).

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is good. The childminder's good knowledge of the children in her care ensures that she is able to successfully promote all aspects of their welfare and learning needs. Children enjoy close relationships with the childminder and eagerly engage in a wide range of activities. Established partnerships with parents, local schools and pre-schools contribute to ensuring the needs of individual children are met. The effective use of self-evaluation means that the childminder can identify strengths and weaknesses in her practice and plan for future development.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- devise a procedure for finding out more about children's starting points
- continue to develop a system for sharing children's developmental progress with parents

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder provides children with a safe, secure and stimulating environment. Well organised play resources encourage them to make independent choices about their play. Flexible planning is based around school and pre-school runs together with children's individual needs for rest and play. Children are provided with a good balance of child-centred and adult-led activities in the home and outside the home where they are learning about the wider community. The childminder is committed to providing a fully inclusive service for all families and has clear and concise procedure in place to ensure children are well safeguarded. Overall, good working relationships with parents ensure that information regarding children's care and progress is shared on a daily basis. However, systems for sharing

information about children's starting points and tracker books are less developed.

The childminder maintains necessary documentation including comprehensive policies and processes which underpin her good practice. Since her last inspection she has improved her practice by updating her first aid qualification and attending training on Safeguarding and the Early Years Foundation Stage. She is encouraging children to eat a more healthy diet as recommended in her previous report and since completing the self-evaluation form she has identified several areas of practice she feels she can improve. This includes regular self-evaluation, attending more training and completing the tracker books more frequently.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children are well supported to make good progress across all areas of their development. The childminder uses tracker books to ensure children are developing the skills and knowledge required to help them progress towards achieving the early learning goals and to plan for the next steps in their learning. Activities are adapted so that all children can take part and are well planned around children's likes and interests. For example, during half-term children enjoy taking part in a variety of activities linked to dinosaurs.

Children are happy, confident and are developing good social and personal skills. They enjoy close relationships with the childminder who spends time supporting their play and giving lots of praise and encouragement to promote their self-esteem. Children choose what they want to play with from a good selection of age appropriate resources which include positive image books, small world resources and dolls to help them learn about the wider world. The childminder enhances children's enjoyment of books by providing them with a good selection of books, sitting with them to read stories and taking them to the library. Children have many opportunities to be creative and to develop their imaginations through various art and art craft activities and different forms of role play. For example, they have great fun converting the dining room chairs and a blanket into a tent and confidently use language to organise their play. They enjoy singing along to familiar songs, and using electronic and computer toys for problem solving and exploring with. During the week the childminder ensures that children have regular opportunities for outdoor play and go on outings to the park and toddler groups to mix with other children.

Children's health, safety and general welfare is well promoted. Provision is made for children to rest during the day and to take part in physical exercise. The childminder endeavours to provide children with a healthy balanced diet and has good procedures in place to protect them from cross-infection. Her home is clean and well maintained with all necessary safety precautions in place to keep children safe and secure.

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 previous 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.