

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY100580
Inspection date	18/02/2009
Inspector	Liz Corr
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 2002. She lives in a two bedroom maisonette in the N1 area of the London Borough of Islington, close to parks and local drop-in groups. Children access the playroom and bathroom on the lower ground level and the living room, kitchen and toilet on the upper floor. The premises are accessed at lower ground level.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children under eight years at any one time, of whom no more than three may be in the early years age range. She is currently minding five children in this age group. She also offers care to children aged over five years to 11 years. This provision is registered by Ofsted on the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register.

She is a member of an approved childminding network and is a member of the National Childminding Association. The childminder has two pet rabbits and a dog.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is good. The childminder provides a safe and welcoming environment, where children can access a stimulating range of play materials. The childminder is aware of children's individual needs and they receive good support during activities. She has begun to organise observation and assessment systems to ensure that children make progress towards the early learning goals. There are good systems in place for communicating regularly with parents and carers.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- continue to develop knowledge of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) guidance to record children's starting points, plan, monitor and assess their progress, provide suitable activities and resources to promote their development and fully develop partnership working
- further develop a culture of reflective practice and self-evaluation
- further develop practice to promote inclusion

To fully meet the specific requirements of the EYFS, the registered person must:

- complete an appropriate paediatric first aid course
(Promoting good health)

04/03/2009

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder is committed to updating her child care knowledge and is currently working towards a recognised qualification for providing home-based child care. Although the childminder has provisionally secured a place on a first aid course, her first aid certificate has expired, which is a breach of regulation. The childminder has undertaken training in self-evaluation, however she has not formalised systems reflect on her practice and therefore identify areas for improvement. She has developed secure support systems through her local childminding network. As a result, she has developed an effective understanding of the EYFS. She has recently introduced systems to observe and assess children's development. Their progress is documented using photographs and written records of their achievements. The childminder is using her support network to increase her knowledge of the EYFS to further develop her assessments using the early learning goals. She is currently developing her planning systems in order to provide for children's individual interests. However, children's starting points are not recorded and there are no systems to share their development with parents and therefore to help promote their involvement in their children's learning.

Children are safeguarded, as the childminder has developed effective policies and procedures for promoting their welfare. The childminder has a clear understanding of how to protect children from harm and abuse. She is aware of how to gain support and guidance if she has child protection concerns. Clear risk assessments for the home are carried out. Safety gates are in place to prevent children from accessing areas of the home that are not used for childminding. However, formal systems to risk assess outings are not fully developed. Children learn to keep safe as they take part in emergency evacuations. However, these are not recorded and therefore concerns and improvements are not monitored. Fire safety equipment is in place, including a fire blanket and smoke detectors which are tested regularly.

Generally the childminder's documentation is in good order with details of children's individual needs, although the recording of parental permissions is not fully secure, as the childminder sometimes relies on letters from parents instead of developing her own recording formats.

Positive relationships have been established with parents. Clear policies, including sickness and complaints are shared with parents. Information is shared with parents though daily discussion. The childminder regularly provides samples of children's art work and photographs of their achievements. Questionnaires were recently provided for parents and these confirm that they are very satisfied with the level of care their children receive.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children are happy and content because their individual needs are met well. When children feel unsettled they are provided with cuddles and support until they feel confident to join in with the activities. Children are well supervised and consequently the childminder responds promptly when their nappies need

changing or when they need to rest. Good communication between the childminder and parents ensures she cares for children in accordance to their needs. For example, she ensures that children are able to sleep according to their routine and in an area of her home where they will be comfortable and secure.

Children access a good range of stimulating activities available in the playroom. They enjoy the cosy wooden house and young children enjoy playing peek-a-boo through the curtains. They happily help themselves to prams and dolls as they pretend to go shopping. This is made more meaningful, as they access a range of pretend food packages. Their interest in musical push-button toys is further promoted as the childminder finds a set of musical instruments. She takes time to show the children how each instrument works. The childminder helps children to develop their language skills throughout the day. During everyday routines such as nappy changing, children are encouraged to learn new words, as she talks to them about what she is doing. They are praised and encouraged as they repeat words back to her. They have a good balance of home and group based activities. The childminder attends several drop-in sessions and the local library where there are organised play and music sessions. Children enjoy regular fresh air and exercise as they play in the garden and local parks. During recent cold weather they took part in building a snowman. The childminder continued this theme by organising a creative activity where the children were able to make a snowman collage. The childminder knows the children well and is beginning to plan for their individual interests to encourage their learning and enjoyment.

The childminder generally works well to promote inclusion. Children are involved in celebrations from other cultures at local drop-in groups and are able to access play equipment with positive images of diversity. She collects information about children's individual backgrounds and helps children acquiring English as an additional language to develop their understanding of English. However, she has identified that this is an area she would like to develop further.

Children are cared for in a clean and well organised environment. Hygienic routines are maintained for nappy changing and the childminder keeps a small bottle of anti-bacterial hand gel which she uses regularly especially after changing nappies and wiping noses. Most main meals are provided by parents, however, the childminder supplements these with healthy snacks and drinks.

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:

Not Met (with actions)

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

Not Met (with actions)

The registered provider does not meet the requirements of the compulsory and or voluntary part/s of the Childcare Register.

To comply with the requirements of the compulsory part of the Childcare Register, the registered person must take the following action/s by the specified date:

- take action as specified in the early years section of the report 04/03/2009

To comply with the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register, the registered person must take the following action/s by the specified date:

- take action as specified in the early years section of the report 04/03/2009

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 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.