

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY311572
Inspection date	25/03/2009
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 2005. She lives with her husband and three children in a three bedroom maisonette in the NW8 area of Westminster.

A lounge and bedroom are the main areas used for childminding purposes. There is no garden but a park and playground are within walking distance.

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 a maximum of four children, three of whom may be in the early years age group. She is not registered to provide overnight care. She currently cares for two children in the early years age group.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The overall quality of provision is outstanding. Children are extremely happy and secure because they receive an excellent standard of care in a setting where their safety and welfare are given the highest priority. The childminder demonstrates a very good understanding of how children learn and develop and translates her knowledge into excellent childcare practice. Children benefit from the childminder's ongoing commitment to provide a fully inclusive service and to further enhance her childcare practice through regular training.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

To further improve the high quality early years provision the registered person should consider:

- further develop systems for recording and assessing children's progress and planning for their next steps.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder is already well informed about the new framework governing the care and education of young children. She demonstrates a positive commitment to providing a high quality, inclusive service based on continuous improvement. This involves undergoing qualification training and keeping herself professionally well informed through various networks.

Children's overall health, safety and welfare is positively promoted. This is because highly effective and carefully considered procedures are put into practice by the childminder. These are also shared with parents in writing at the beginning of a placement and form part of the comprehensive 'welcome pack' given to each family. Other information includes the details and location of each facility children visit with the childminder should parents wish to visit at any time.

Children benefit from the very good safety practice of the childminder. Practical arrangements for their safe arrival and collection are well managed with decisive action taken should the suitability of any adult be called into question. Children are further protected as the childminder demonstrates an excellent understanding of child protection issues and is highly knowledgeable about the action to take if she has concerns about a child. She also keeps herself updated about other aspects of safeguarding by regularly attending training events.

Children are cared for in clean, comfortable surroundings where good standards of cleanliness and hygiene are maintained. A comprehensive sickness policy combined with clear information sharing with parents helps ensure children are protected from the spread of any infection. The welfare of children with complex health needs is extremely well supported. The childminder is experienced in this area and is currently undergoing training to further enhance her already excellent practice.

There is a strong commitment to act decisively if a child's welfare is remotely at risk. Also, if a child needs to be taken to hospital, there is a clear contingency plan to ensure other children are safely cared for in the meantime. This is with the prior written agreement of all parents.

Excellent partnership working with parents helps ensure children's learning and development is a positive, shared experience. The settling in period includes an informal observation period with parents present, a careful assessment of children's starting points and a detailed discussion about children's individual needs. From thereon, parents are kept very well informed about their child's progress.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children benefit from the very welcoming atmosphere created by the childminder. They receive extremely warm, attentive care because the childminder is highly skilled at quickly developing trusting relationships with the children she cares for. The childminder uses her extensive knowledge of individual children to effectively plan for their future care and provides excellent support as they grow and develop. She uses her keen observational skills to highlight where children may require extra support and sensitively offers advice to parents.

Children's overall progress is monitored extremely well and the childminder plans for their next steps with confidence. Formal systems for observing and recording their progress are already in place and the childminder is actively considering how these can be further improved. When children leave the childminder to attend nursery or school, with parents permission, she exchanges information and passes the child's portfolio and records onto staff at the new setting. This helps provide continuity in monitoring children's learning and development.

Children greatly benefit from the childminder's experience of caring for those with complex needs. She provides sensitive professional support and liaises closely with parents. Where appropriate and with parents permission, she also effectively works

with other agencies to ensure the individual needs of each child are met.

Children enjoy a stimulating range of indoor play and learning opportunities covering each area of their learning. Older children's knowledge and understanding of the world is greatly enhanced because the childminder ensures they have rich experiences when they visit places of interest and have access to an extremely diverse range of play resources. They see various places of worship, share food from the childminder's own culture and have their own backgrounds and traditions highly valued and respected.

Everyday routines are made fun and interesting. Lunchtime is an extremely relaxed and sociable time for children. They are positively encouraged to develop an awareness of healthy eating habits and enjoy well balanced nutritious meals.

The childminder uses excellent communication and listening skills with children and takes a positive interest in what they are doing. Consequently, children feel valued and quickly grow in confidence.

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.	1

Leadership and management

How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?	1
How effective is the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement?	1
How well does the setting work in partnership with parents and others?	1
How well are children safeguarded?	1

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?	1
How well are children helped to stay safe?	1
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

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

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

Met

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.