

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	139622
Inspection date	05/02/2009
Inspector	Christine Stimson
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 with Ofsted since 2001 and was originally registered in 1992 with her local authority. She lives in a house with her adult daughter, within walking distance of Carshalton village, local schools and community resources. There is level access to the property with toilet facilities on the first floor. All areas of the ground floor are used for childminding and the front bedroom upstairs is used for children to rest in travel cots. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outdoor play and the family have two pet cats.

The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register, and may care for a maximum of four children at any one time. She is currently caring for four children on a part time basis, two of whom are in the early years age range and two are over five years. The childminder supports children with disabilities and regularly takes children to local toddler groups and the library.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is inadequate. Children's personal needs are known to the childminder who takes them into account when organising their day. The childminder has not met a number of requirements such as recording risk assessments, obtaining Criminal Records Bureau disclosures for adults on site over 16 years, sharing a complaints procedure with parents and making sure children cannot leave the premises unsupervised. This results in children's welfare and safety not being met. The childminder does not fully promote inclusive practice as there are no activity plans based on children's individual abilities and interests, nor does she undertake regular observations of children's progress to share with parents. The childminder's capacity for continual improvement and self-evaluation of her provision are not sufficiently effective in identifying areas for improvement and how this will be achieved.

Overall, the early years provision requires significant improvement. The registered person is given a Notice to Improve that sets out actions to be carried out.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

To comply with the requirements of the EYFS the registered person must take the following action by the specified date:

- take steps to ensure children cannot leave the premises unsupervised (Safeguarding and welfare - also applies to both parts of the Childcare register) 20/02/2009
- obtain an enhanced Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) disclosure for all adults living on the premises over 16 years of age (Suitability of adults - also applies to both parts of the Childcare register) 20/02/2009

- make sure parents are made aware of your complaints procedure and are provided with details of how to make a complaint to Ofsted (Documentation - also applies to both parts of the Childcare register) 20/02/2009
- make sure a record of risk assessments, showing when they were carried out, the date of review and any action taken, is in place for all areas of your home and for all outings undertaken with children (Documentation - also applies to both parts of the Childcare register) 20/02/2009

To improve the early years provision the registered person should:

- extend the sick child policy to include procedures to follow in the event of a child being taken ill or receiving minor injuries whilst in your care
- make sure regular evacuation drills are carried out, with details recorded in a fire log book of any problem encountered and how it was resolved. Make sure smoke detectors are checked regularly to ensure they are in working order and review the accessibility of the fire blanket in the kitchen
- develop records of learning and development and make sure the planning of activities for each child includes observations and analysis. Make sure what is found is used for each child's next step of learning
- give parents the opportunity to regularly review their children's progress and contribute to learning and development records.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder has undertaken a course to help her understand the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), but has not developed her knowledge sufficiently to help her monitor children's progress. There are sufficient resources in place for the age and stage of the children attending and these are kept at child height for self selection. Once they have made their choice the childminder extends children's learning by her interaction and open questioning. However, children's progress is not monitored and the childminder is unclear how she will move children to their next step of development.

The childminder has some policies and procedures in place to support the management of her setting and these are shared with parents. However, some policies, like the sick child policy, need to be clearer. The childminder has taken steps to promote children's health and stop the spread of infection, by making sure they have nutritious foods and their own towels. The childminder has built a professional and friendly rapport with parents, asking for information about their child when they first attend so she can find out children's starting points. However, once the children are in her care she does not monitor their progress. This results in the childminder having nothing to share with parents to show how their children are progressing. The childminder has built relationships with an outside agency one child is involved with to ensure progress and continuity, but has not extended this to other children in her care who attend settings delivering the EYFS. The

childminder is, therefore, only partially promoting inclusive practice.

The childminder does not undertake any risk assessments for outings with children, but does visually check her home for safety. However, she has not kept a record of these visual risk assessments, which is a requirement. Children are safeguarded by the childminder's sound knowledge of child protection issues and the procedures to follow if she has a concern. The childminder has not thought about self-evaluating her practice to promote improvement, but has met the recommendations made at the last inspection.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children's health is promoted as they learn routine hand washing and are aware they have to use their own towels in the bathroom, a precaution the childminder instigates to prevent cross infection. Children enjoy healthy meals whilst in the care of the childminder, who makes sure they get enough to drink. They have regular exercise either at toddler groups or in the childminder's garden where they access tricycles and balls to practise their skills. Children's safety is not so well met as the childminder has not carried out risk assessments for her outings or recorded details of the visual risk assessments undertaken in her home. She has overlooked the danger posed by the front door, which has a handle at child height that is easily opened. She has not practised her written fire drill with children and does not regularly check the smoke alarms to ensure they are in working order. This poses a risk to children's safety.

Children play in an organised area of the childminder's home where they can self select toys kept at child height, with arrangements in place for children to eat and rest comfortably. Regular outings to local children's centres, toddler groups and the library enable children to learn about their local community and socialise in larger groups. Children are relaxed and happy in the care of the childminder who spends time interacting with them. They have opportunities to look at books and enjoy stories, widening their knowledge of the outside world and exploring their imaginations. For example, the children are eager to share a book with the childminder who reads to them with expression holding their interest, with children making comments and re-enacting animal noises as the story progresses. There is no evidence that older children explore activities involving programmable toys or use a computer whilst in the care of the childminder.

Children have a balance of indoor and outdoor play and consistent routines help them feel secure and settled. Positive interaction and support from the childminder enables children to feel confident in her home. Children, who are able, are given opportunities to count, recognise numbers and letters and to sound out letters. For example, a child tells the childminder she is doing E for egg at nursery and selects this from the alphabet puzzle she is exploring, with the childminder encouraging her to sound out the letters. She is also able to pick out M for mummy and D for daddy and then is helped with the letter H, finally recognising head, hair and hands.

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?	4
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	3
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	4

Leadership and management

How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?	4
How effective is the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement?	4
How well does the setting work in partnership with parents and others?	3
How well are children safeguarded?	4

Quality and standards

How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?	3
How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?	4
How well are children helped to stay safe?	4
How well are children helped to be healthy?	2
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	3
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	3
How well are children helped develop skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being?	3

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 in the early years section of the report 20/02/2009

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 in the early years section of the report 20/02/2009

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 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.