

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	140061
Inspection date	15/05/2009
Inspector	Elizabeth Anne Coffey
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 1999. She lives with her husband in a three bedroom bungalow in West Dulwich, in the London borough of Lambeth. Children are cared for mainly in the living room with a separate bedroom used for sleep and rest periods. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder's husband works as her assistant and is actively involved in the care of the children on a day-to-day basis. The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register to care for a maximum of four children under eight years when working on her own and a maximum of six children under eight years when working with her husband. There are currently seven children in the early years age group on roll who attend for a variety of full-time and part-time placements. The childminder is also registered on the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. A cat is kept as a family pet.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the provision is good. Children's welfare is promoted because the childminder ensures that the premises and equipment are safe and well-maintained. The childminder demonstrates a positive attitude to inclusion and ensures that children have access to a range of resources that reflect diversity. The childminder has implemented a system of self-evaluation which identifies her plans for ongoing improvement. Children are very settled in the care of the childminder and enjoy a range of activities that support their learning and development. However, systems to assess individual children's stage of development or plan for their next steps in learning are still in their infancy.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- develop systems for carrying out sensitive observations on children that can be used to plan for their next steps in learning, and shared with parents

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

- keep a record of complaints and any subsequent action taken

29/05/2009

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The home is welcoming and secure. The childminder takes appropriate steps to safeguard and promote the children's welfare. Written policies and procedures are maintained and shared with parents. However, a record of complaints, in line with

current regulations, is not in place. The childminder is committed to developing her practice and knowledge. She has addressed all areas for improvement identified at her last inspection and demonstrates a commitment to, and understanding of, self-evaluation.

Children experience warm, consistent care from the childminder and her husband, and they are confident and secure in their care. They enjoy good relationships with their peers and they are encouraged to play with care and consideration for each other. Children are comfortable and demonstrate a sense of belonging in the setting. Their good health is encouraged through sensible hygiene routines, the provision of healthy snacks and meals, and ample opportunities to enjoy outdoor activities.

The childminder's knowledge and understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage guidance is enhanced through the reading of relevant materials. She has begun to use the guidance to develop her knowledge and skills, to give her direction and to identify areas for improvement. However, she has not yet implemented a system for collating observations and assessments on children, from which she can effectively plan for their next steps in learning.

The childminder has a sound relationship with parents and shares information with them on a daily basis about how their child's day has been. Good communication between the childminder and parents about children's routines ensures that children's individual needs are met.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The childminder provides a comfortable, stimulating and purposeful play environment, where children feel secure and enjoy a wide variety of learning experiences. The environment is organised to enable children to independently access their play resources with confidence and ease. The interaction between children and the childminder and her husband is very good. Children are confident in making their needs known. For example, a toddler who needs help to climb onto the mini trampoline in the garden extends her arms out and is helped onto the apparatus with appropriate guidance. This enables the children to be independent and active learners. The childminder and her husband know the children very well and their knowledge of the children's individual needs and likes and dislikes enables them to follow their interests and plan for them accordingly. However, there are insufficient systems in place for carrying out regular observations or assessments on all children and planning does not clearly identify next steps in children's learning.

The safety and welfare of young children is promoted. The childminder ensures that children can play and learn in an environment that is safe and secure. The premises are clean and well maintained and there are appropriate procedures in place to promote the health and safety of the children. Children are provided with a healthy, well-balanced range of meals and snacks that meet their individual dietary needs. The childminder introduces topics such as 'being healthy' in a manner that is an enjoyable and interactive learning experience for the children.

For example, the children enjoy playing 'pretend hospitals' with the doctor's kit and the childminder introduces words such as 'stethoscope' and 'vaccination' to extend children's language and knowledge of what they might expect on a visit to the doctor's surgery.

Children and adults are warmly welcomed into the setting that becomes like a 'home-from-home'. The childminder liaises closely with parents to ensure children's welfare needs are identified and met. The childminder is keen to promote inclusion and ensures that resources and activities, which help children learn to value and appreciate the diversity of their community and the wider world, are readily available. The childminder and her husband help children develop a positive sense of self by ensuring that they take the time to listen to them and provide them with individual attention. As a result, behaviour is good and children's confidence and self-esteem develops.

Close partnership with parents ensures children are settled and feel secure. Parents receive clear information about the setting and daily feedback about what their children have been doing. Parents' feedback about the service they and their children receive is very positive, with parents acknowledging the 'fantastic teamwork' between the childminder and her husband. This close partnership underpins the service provided and promotes positive outcomes for children.

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 29/05/2009

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 29/05/2009