

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	136627
Inspection date	17/06/2009
Inspector	Susan Linda Capon
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 2001. She lives with her husband and their two children aged 11 and 14 years old, in a home situated in the Orpington area of the London Borough of Bromley. With the exception of the first floor main bedroom all areas of the property are available for childminding. There is a secure garden for outdoor play.

The family has a cat.

The childminder is registered to provide care for a maximum of six children under eight years old at any one time. Of these, three may be in the early year's age group. The childminder is currently minding one child in the early year's age group on a full-time basis.

The childminder speaks fluent Portuguese. She makes regular use of the local amenities including the parks, library and parent and toddler groups.

The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is good. The childminder provides a very warm, welcoming, child orientated environment, where children feel at home and part of the family. Children are well safeguarded through good risk assessments, ensuring all potential hazards in the home and garden have been minimised to prevent unnecessary accidents. They access a wide range of interesting toys, activities and equipment, keeping them motivated and interested to learn and develop as they play. Inclusive practice is incorporated well into the provision, promoting regular opportunities for children to learn about other races, cultures and disabilities, while their personal needs are fully met at all times. The childminder evaluates her setting well, recognising areas requiring development and has addressed all the previous recommendations, demonstrating her professional approach to her childcare role. She has developed good relationships with children's parents, ensuring they are fully involved in their child's ongoing development and learning.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- develop the complaints procedures, ensuring it is readily available to all parents and contains Ofsted contact details.
- record the current risk assessments for the home, garden and all outings as required for the EYFS.
- continue to develop the observations and planning arrangements, ensuring each child develops and progresses appropriately through the early learning

goals.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder has a portfolio of information readily available for parents, including her recent training certificates, demonstrating her professional approach to her role as a child carer. However, her complaints procedure is not currently available in writing, preventing parents accessing Ofsted contact details if required. She has good safeguarding knowledge and understanding, ensuring children's safety at all times. Children are never left unsupervised with un-vetted persons.

The childminder clearly self-evaluates her provision, recognising she needs to continue to develop her written records, including her risk assessments for the home, garden and all outings. She has attended training for the Early Years Foundation Stage, implementing this well into her provision. She intends to continue to attend relevant childcare training opportunities and is developing her observations and assessment arrangements for the children to improve the provision she offers.

The childminder has developed good relationships with the children's parents. They are happy with the care of their child and share information verbally each day. This ensures the childminder promotes continuity of care for the children. The childminder works closely with the parents, providing some flexibility regarding the hours she works. For example, children stay with her longer than the regular contracted hours when their parents need to work. This arrangement promotes continuity of care for the child while enabling parents to continue to work safe in the knowledge their child is happy, safe and secure. She keeps the parents verbally updated about their child's continual development and progress, enabling them to be fully involved at all times.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children spend their day in a very bright, light, well decorated home, enabling them to feel safe and secure. They freely access a well-organised variety of toys, activities and equipment indoors and outdoors each day. These are supplemented by regular outings outside the home, extending their opportunities to participate in a wide range of activities while developing their social skills as they mix with other children of a similar age and stage of development. For example, they regularly visit local parent and toddler groups and a music and movement group.

The children's welfare and safety is paramount to the childminder. Children can explore their environment in safety as extensive risk assessments have been undertaken by the childminder. However, these assessments are not recorded as required. Children are unable to access the main doors, preventing them leaving the premises unnoticed. They learn the importance of using the Green Cross Code when out and about close to busy roads and keep in the childminders sight when playing in the park.

The children are developing an excellent awareness of the importance of developing a healthy lifestyle. They enjoy visits to the local supermarket and the childminder's allotment, selecting fresh fruit and vegetables for their meals. The play food includes healthy options and regular discussions about healthy eating continue to develop children's awareness. The childminder provides healthy, home made nutritious meals and snacks each day, enabling children to develop and thrive appropriately. Fresh water is readily available to the children. The childminder provides no fizzy drinks helping children keep their teeth and gums healthy. Regular opportunities for fresh air and exercise are incorporated into the childminder's day. Children enjoy swimming with the childminder and developing their climbing and jumping skills at the local park or soft play centre. Everyone uses good hygiene procedures, preventing the spread of infection.

The children enjoy a varied, stimulating, interesting programme of activities every week, enabling them to develop and progress through the early learning goals at their personal rate of development. All areas are incorporated equally and the individual needs of each child are considered at all times. Younger children's personal routines are fully incorporated into the provision, ensuring continuity of care. The childminder knows the children well and ensures suitable activities are provided, taking into account their individual developmental needs and personal interests. Any concerns relating to children's personal development are discussed fully with the parents and future plans for supporting individual children's needs are incorporated into her planning as required.

Children are making good progress through the early learning goals. The childminder skilfully supports the children's learning as she sits on the floor with them, discussing the activity and promoting their language and mathematical skills as they play and learn. For example, she counts the pieces of fruit in the basket and names the shapes when using the shape sorter. The children are interested and motivated to learn and try new activities as they play. They have developed a secure relationship with the childminder while some are still unsure about people they do not know. They are developing their confidence as they mix with other children at local activities and learning about their local community and other people within it. Opportunities to learn about other cultures, race and disabilities are promoted through the good selection of toys, equipments provided by the childminder and extended by visits to the local parent and toddler group. Children enjoy exploring a wide range of natural materials including sand, water, paint, dough and glue. They enjoy visits to Crystal Palace Park; meeting the animals at the farm. Children enjoy role play activities as they play with the home corner particularly the speaking kettle. They laugh and smile as they explore musical sounds and rhythms, tapping two objects together in unison with the childminder. Children develop their imagination as they construct their own models and produce their own master piece when they paint. Moving imaginatively to music and exploring the different sounds of the instruments is another favourite with the children. They enjoy singing Ring a Ring of Roses as they swim in the pool. Children enjoy listening to stories and selecting their own books when they visit the library. They behave very well as they know the childminder's house rules. Children develop good self-esteem and confidence as the childminder regularly praises and encourages their efforts and achievements.

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?	1
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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