

Inspection report for early years provision

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| Unique reference number | EY371603 |
| Inspection date | 28/07/2009 |
| Inspector | Christine Lynne Hodge |
| 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 has been registered since May 2008. She lives in a three bedroom extended house in Welling in the borough of Bexley with her husband and two daughters aged nine and six years. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden for outdoor play. The family have a two year old Labrador dog who has a separate pen in the garden.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children under eight years, of whom no more than three may be in the early years age range. She is currently caring for two 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.

The childminder collects children from her children's school and attends local toddler groups. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is good. The childminder's good knowledge of each of the children in her care ensures that she is able to successfully promote all aspects of their welfare and development. Children are safe and secure and have access to a good range of resources and activities. Partnerships with parents are well established and contribute significantly to ensuring children's individual needs are well met. Although the childminder does not yet have a formal system for self-evaluation in place, she has taken effective steps to help her identify good practice and continue to improve her practice.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- promote children's understanding that print carries meaning by providing labels and picture on boxes of play resources
- further develop the child information forms completed by parents to include more about children's starting points with regards to their development
- continue to develop a system for self-evaluation.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder has a sound understanding of her role and responsibility for protecting children in line with Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures. Parents are made to feel welcome and are provided with very good information about her provision and their children's care and development. All required documentation is in place and is well maintained.

The childminder's home provides children with a secure and welcoming, child friendly environment in which they feel safe and very much at home. Play resources are well organised in low level, easy access storage boxes, helping children to make choices about their play. Daily routines and activities are planned effectively around children's individual needs, likes and interests and include a good balance of indoor and outdoor activities.

The childminder has completed her registration training, a recognised first aid course and safeguarding training. She is keen to continue to improve her practice by attending further training and through discussion with other childminders who have set up a network in order to support one another with the Early Years Foundation Stage and share good practice.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children are well supported to make good progress across all areas of their learning and development. Activities are linked to the six areas of learning and are based on information gained from parents regarding children's likes and interests and from routine observations. Learning journals, photographs and regular reviews are used to track children's progress and plan for the next steps in their learning.

Children are happy, confident and relate well to the childminder and her family. They can choose what they want to play with from a wide range of play resources which are regularly rotated and include positive image toys and books to help them learn about difference. The childminder constantly talks to children to encourage their language and thinking skills. Children have good access to a range of resources for mark making and they enjoy looking at books and going to the library for story time. However, the lack of pictures and labelling means that opportunities are missed to extend children's understanding that print carries meaning. Children have great fun in the garden, exploring with the sand and developing their physical skills by kicking and throwing balls and jumping up and down on the trampoline. The childminder is skilled at using these activities to help children learn to count and to develop their understanding of colours. Indoors children enjoy singing and dancing and taking part in various art and craft activities, as well as role play and dressing up. They have good opportunities to develop their problem solving skills, building with various construction resources, playing games and completing puzzles. Children enjoy socialising with their peers at toddler groups and on visits to other childminders. Regular trips to the woods, together with outings to the farm, zoo and aquarium encourage them to learn about nature, animals and the wider world.

Well written policies and procedures, which are shared with parents, ensure that children's health, safety and general welfare is fully promoted. The childminder's home is clean and well maintained with all necessary safety precautions in place to keep children safe, including front and back door alarms to prevent children from leaving the premises unnoticed. Meals and snacks are healthy and nutritious and the childminder has good procedures in place to protect children from cross infection. Provision is made for children to rest during the day and to have access to regular fresh air and exercise.

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

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| 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

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| 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

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| 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 |

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Annex B: the Childcare Register

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| 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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