

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	109964
Inspection date	24/08/2009
Inspector	Lara Hickson
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 1992. She lives with her 12 year old son in a three bedroomed detached house in North Thamesmead. The premises are situated in a quiet residential area close to local shops, parks and buses. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children under eight years at any one time, of whom no more than three maybe in the early years age range. She is currently minding three children in this age group, two on a part time basis. 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. Overnight care is not included.

The family does not have any pets.

The childminder attends local carer and toddler groups on a regular basis. She is a member of the National Childminding Association and Greenwich and Bexley childminding associations. She has child care qualifications relating to childminding and is a network childminder for Greenwich. The childminder collects children from the local school.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the provision is outstanding. The developmental and welfare needs of children are effectively met by the childminder. Excellent working partnerships with parents enable the childminder to involve them in their children's learning and meet the needs of each individual child. Daily feedback both verbally and through a photographic observation book is exchanged and the childminder has regular discussions with parents regarding children's progress and development in all areas of learning. This ensures that parents are actively involved in their child's care, learning and development. The childminder provides a wide range of toys and activities for children to investigate and these promote their development in all areas. Activities and outings in the local area and further afield enhance children's enjoyment and progress, such as visits to the library, farms, parks and walks along the canal to feed the ducks.

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 observation and assessment

The leadership and management of the early years provision

All required records and documentation are in place and available. A comprehensive portfolio is in place which details of the childminder's suitability, training completed and policies and procedures. This clearly outlines how the childminder caters for children's individual care, welfare and learning needs in her safe, welcoming setting.

The childminder has effective procedures in place to ensure children's safety within her setting.

The childminder demonstrates an excellent understanding of the need to provide children with resources that are age appropriate and offer suitable challenge and sustain interest. She completes regular risk assessments to ensure that the home and garden areas are safe and suitable for the children attending. An emergency plan is in place and fire drills are completed regularly to ensure that all children are aware of the procedure and can evacuate safely from the setting if an emergency arises. The childminder demonstrates a good understanding of safeguarding procedures and of the referral process with regards to reporting any incidents of abuse or neglect.

The childminder's capacity to improve is excellent and she has systems in place to monitor and evaluate her setting such as the self evaluation form and visits from her Network Coordinator. The childminder has identified key strengths as well as areas she would like to develop further. She discusses her provision with parents/carers and her network coordinator and uses comments from these to determine training required or new resources she will introduce into her setting. From discussions it is evident that the childminder has a clear understanding of how her setting will progress and continue to meet the individual needs of the children attending. The childminder demonstrates an extremely positive attitude towards ongoing training and personal development.

The childminder knows the children in her care extremely well and plans for their individual stages of development. She uses a photograph based observation system to record how the children are developing and progressing. This ensures that she can offer sufficient interest and challenge. The childminder plans activities that will enable children to progress onto the next stages of their development. Effective systems are in place for sharing information with parents regarding progress and development. Regular discussions also ensure consistency with regards to issues such as potty training and feeding. Parents are extremely happy with the service provided as reflected in the thank you cards and letters the childminder has received. Comments from parents include 'I watched my daughter flourish and thrive in your care', and 'we are frequently astounded at the quality of your service'. The childminder understands the value of developing strong partnership with other settings delivering the EYFS and provides a valuable link between home and school. The childminder and parents liaise effectively, which enables individual needs and requirements to be met.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The childminder provides children with a wide range of indoor and outdoor activities which help them make very good progress across all areas of their learning and development. The childminder plans her day effectively to ensure that individual routines and requirements are met. Consultation with parents on a daily basis reflects any changes, such as if a child has an unsettled night or a busy weekend. This ensures that children feel secure within the setting and are happy and settled. The childminder organises settling-in sessions with new children to enable a child to become familiar with her, the other children attending and the home setting. This also gives her the opportunity to gather information from parents on children's individual needs as well as their starting points and capabilities so that she can plan appropriate activities.

The childminder plans a wide range of activities that enhance children's skills. For example, children enjoy trips to the library and local parks and walks in the local area. The childminder encourages children to become independent, creative learners by providing a wide range of activities and resources that the children can choose from and she plans a good balance of both adult-led and child-initiated activities. Resources are stored at low level and are easily accessible allowing individual choice. The childminder sits on the floor with children and supports their play whilst encouraging independence and introducing vocabulary. For example, when a child is cutting the play fruit the childminder introduces different fruits and vegetables such as pepper, strawberry and tomato. Activities such as games and the daily routine promote sharing and turn taking as well as encouraging independence.

The childminder effectively promotes children's health within her setting. Children have daily opportunities for outdoor play and for fresh air and exercise on the school runs. The childminder has a thorough awareness of children's nutritional needs and the children benefit from an extensive range of healthy, well balanced freshly prepared meals and snacks. The childminder ensures that she complies with parental wishes regarding children's individual dietary requirements and is aware of children's likes, dislikes, allergies, food intolerances and special dietary requirements. Children are cared for in an extremely clean, warm and welcoming home and are able to play in a clean and hygienic environment. They benefit from the highly effective household cleaning routines in place which help to prevent the spread of infection, for example all children have their own, individual towel. Children are introduced to and learn about the importance of good personal hygiene practices through the childminder's well planned daily routines.

The childminder has a valid paediatric first aid qualification ensuring that appropriate first aid is given in the event of an accident or emergency. Any accidents, however minor are recorded in an accident book and parents are asked to sign any entries relating to their child as confirmation that they have been informed. All existing injuries are recorded and the child protection policy highlights the requirement for the childminder to record full information of all existing injuries the child arrives at the setting with. All medication administered to minded children is accurately recorded and authorised by parents.

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?	1
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?	1

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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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