

Inspection report for early years provision

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Inspection date 22/12/2009
Inspector Victoria Vasiliadis

Type of setting Childcare on domestic premises

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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.

Please see our website for more information about each childcare provider. We publish inspection reports, conditions of registration and details of complaints we receive where we or the provider take action to meet the requirements of registration.

Description of the setting

The childcare provider was registered in 2009. She lives with her school age child and housekeeper in a residential area in Edgware in the borough of Barnet. Children have access to a large open plan play area and an enclosed outdoor play area along with two rooms upstairs. There is a small step to the front of the premises and a downstairs cloakroom is available. The provision operates Monday to Wednesday from 8.00am to 6.00pm throughout the year.

The childcare provider works with several assistants who work different shifts, this is either from 8.00am to 1.00pm or from 1.00pm to 6.00pm. Three of the assistants are currently in the process of completing appropriate qualifications. The childcare provider currently holds a level 4 qualification in Children's Care, Learning and Development.

The childcare provider is registered to care for a maximum of 20 children under 8 of these, not more than 16 may be in the early years age group. Currently there are 12 children on roll within the early years age range and children attend on a part or full time basis. The childcare provider is registered on the Early Years Register and on both the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register.

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is good.

The children are settled, happy and well cared for within this setting. They are making good progress in their learning and development, and their individual needs are being well met. Partnership with parents and carers is a particular strength of this setting as there are extensive systems in place to support practice. Children's safety and welfare is well promoted as all adults are clear of their roles and responsibilities. The quality of children's care is likely to continue to improve as the childcare provider is clear about her strengths and areas she would like to develop and how to do this.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- prompt children's thinking and discussion through involvement in their play and make use of activities where talk is used to anticipate or initiate what children will be doing or are doing
- continue to develop the systems for observation and assessment to further enhance children's learning and development.

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

The childcare provider has a clear understanding of her role in promoting the safety and welfare of the children in her care, as a result, children are cared for in a safe environment. There are effective risk assessments in place that identify potential hazards and these have been addressed. She is aware of her responsibility in relation to child protection issues which includes monitoring, recording and reporting concerns to the appropriate authorities. Assistants are aware of the need to report any concerns they have about the children to the childcare provider. Policies and procedures are in place to support practice and the childcare provider is aware of the need to ensure that all persons over 16 years are suitable to do so. For example, clear Criminal Records Bureau checks are completed on some of the assistants and the childcare provider is in the process of completing these on the remaining assistants who have recently joined her team.

An extremely strong emphasis is placed on building positive and effective partnerships with parents and carers to benefit the children in the setting. There are a range of policies and procedures in place, which are shared with parents and notice boards hold information about the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and photos of the children engaged in play based on the six areas of learning. The setting produce 'day sheets' for each of the children which contains information about what they have done during the day along with information about their personal routines as a means of communicating with parents and carers. A 'Flip Video' system has been introduced which enables the setting to email parents with video footage of their child at the setting. Parents' views have been sought and comments and suggestions for improvement have been acted upon by the provider. Parent comments are positive and state 'I am very happy with the care of my child, this is my second child and I wouldn't hesitate to recommend the service to others'. Through discussion the childcare provider is able to demonstrate her understanding of the importance of sharing information with other settings involved in the care and education of the children.

The quality of children's care is likely to continue to improve as the childcare provider is clear about her strengths and areas she would like to develop and how to do this. She has sought the support of the local authority in order to trial different methods for observing and assessing the children. She is committed to developing her knowledge and understanding of childcare issues and has recently completed a level 4 qualification in Children's Care, Learning and Development. She is hoping to complete the Early Years Professional Status qualification in due course. In addition, some of her staff team are in the process of completing level 2 qualifications. The childcare provider seeks the views of parents and is open to suggestions to improve the service and acts on these, improving outcomes for children and their families.

The quality and standards of the early years provision and outcomes for children

The childcare provider and her assistants work closely together to support the care of children. They provide an enabling environment which helps children to make progress in all areas of learning and development. Play resources and nursery furniture are of good quality and well maintained and designed for the comfortable use of the children. Resources are easily accessible as most are stored at the children's level in boxes and low-level units, this enables children to self-select and make choices in their learning and play. The children thoroughly enjoy opportunities to play both inside and outside and advantage is taken of the snow which enables the children, some of whom may never have seen snow, to experience this. Planning is flexible, responding to children's individual interests, their starting points and their capabilities. Observation and assessment process are developing and emerging and the childcare provider is trialling different methods to ensure that observations closely link to all six areas of learning within the EYFS.

Children are challenged and encouraged to extend their learning as they actively explore and take delight in playing with the corn flour activity as they watch it turn from powder to a gooey and runny substance when water is added. The children are supported in their learning as the childcare provider and assistants sit with the children and engage in conversations with them. However, there are times when some adults miss opportunities to extend and develop the children's language and thinking processes.

The childcare provider ensures that practice is inclusive for all children and families. They work well with parents and carers to ensure that if children have English as an additional language then key words are sought from parents to support the child. In addition, there are books available in dual languages which helps children to feel included and valued. The children are learning how to form positive relationships with other children, through the sensitive support that adults offer. For example, if children hurt one another they are encouraged to say sorry. Children are praised for their efforts and achievements. In addition, effective written policies and procedures are in place to support practice and these are shared with parents and carers.

Children's health and well-being is suitably supported. For example, children are encouraged to clean their hands before eating or after returning from the garden. Children are offered healthy meals which are home made and take account of their dietary requirements and parents wishes. The children thoroughly enjoy helping to make their own fruit milkshakes. The children help to cut up bananas and watch as the childcare provider adds this to the milk and blends it into a milkshake for the children, which they are eager to taste. Children have access to the outdoors on a daily basis, they have suitable clothing which enables them to play in the garden regardless of the weather. This helps to promote the children's physical development and supports their health.

The childcare provider is well prepared to teach children about keeping safe as soon as they are old enough and is already explaining why some things are not

safe. For example, she reminds children not to put knives in their mouth when they are preparing food for their snacks.

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

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

How well does the setting meet the needs of the children in the Early Years Foundation Stage?	2
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement	2

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

How effectively is the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?	2
The effectiveness of leadership and management in embedding ambition and driving improvement	2
The effectiveness with which the setting deploys resources	2
The effectiveness with which the setting promotes equality and diversity	2
The effectiveness of safeguarding	2
The effectiveness of the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement	2
The effectiveness of partnerships	2
The effectiveness of the setting's engagement with parents and carers	1

The quality of the provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage

The quality of the provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage	2
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Outcomes for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage

Outcomes for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage	2
The extent to which children achieve and enjoy their learning	2
The extent to which children feel safe	2
The extent to which children adopt healthy lifestyles	2
The extent to which children make a positive contribution	2
The extent to which children develop skills for the future	2

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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

The provider confirms that the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register are: Met