

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	137127
Inspection date	08/02/2010
Inspector	Pamela Patricia Paisley
Type of setting	Childminder

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, work-based learning and skills training, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It rates council children's services, and inspects services for looked after children, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 1231, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may copy all or parts of this document for non-commercial educational purposes, as long as you give details of the source and date of publication and do not alter the information in any way.

Royal Exchange Buildings
St Ann's Square
Manchester
M2 7LA

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.ofsted.gov.uk

© Crown copyright 2009

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).

Children only attend this setting before and/or after the school day and/or during the school holidays. The judgements in this report reflect the quality of early years provision offered to children during those periods.

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 childminding

The childminder was registered in 1992. She is on the Early Years Register and on the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. The childminder lives with her adult son in Beckenham within the London borough of Bromley. All areas of the childminder's home are used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden available for outdoor play. The family have goldfish. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time and is currently minding one child in the early years age group and a school aged child. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is good.

The childminder provides a stimulating environment where children's individual needs are met well. The childminder is committed to supporting all children in her care and making sure they all have the same opportunities to learn and develop. There is a good partnership with parents and other settings where children attend to promote the integration of care and education. Effective steps are taken by the childminder to evaluate her provision to maintain good outcomes for children.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- develop systems for planning activities that focus on working towards the early learning goals.

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

Children are effectively safeguarded because the childminder clearly understands her role in child protection and is fully aware of the procedures to follow should a concern arise. All policies, records and procedures are in place that supports the welfare and care of the children, and they are shared and discussed with parents. Effective safety devices are fitted throughout the childminder's home to protect children from potential dangers and risk assessments are regularly reviewed to ensure children's safety. Children regularly practise fire drills so that they become familiar with emergency evacuation procedures. A good partnership with parents is maintained through good communication to ensure each child's needs are met. The childminder uses photographs of activities the children took part in and a daily diary to share their achievements with parents and keep them well informed of their child's day. Parents are encouraged to share what they know about their child, particularly at the start of a placement and the childminder has close links with teachers of the school her minded children attend so that they receive the best possible support in their learning.

The childminder provides a child centred environment which is organised well so that they can independently access a wide and stimulating range of resources that promotes all areas of their learning and development. All children are encouraged to participate in activities provided. This ensures that they all have an equal opportunity to maximise their enjoyment and potential. The childminder regularly reviews the service she provides and since her last inspection has made improvements to her record keeping ensuring that written parental consent is requested for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment. The childminder is committed to making further improvements through self-evaluation to make sure that children continue to make good progress in all areas of their development. She intends to go on relevant training courses to up date her childcare knowledge and has introduced questionnaires so that parents can give feedback regarding the service she provides.

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

The childminder has a good knowledge of how young children learn and develop. Activities are well planned to make sure that children can take part in a wide variety of stimulating experiences that support their learning and development. Children are happy and relaxed and have a trusting relationship with the childminder. They receive consistent praise and encouragement helping them to develop good self-esteem. The childminder has started using observations and assessments to plan for children's next steps of learning, although she is not yet secure in her knowledge of how to link activities to the early learning goals. Children are gaining good knowledge and understanding of the world and celebrate several festivals throughout the year. They explore and investigate living things as they grow tomatoes and sunflowers in the childminder's garden and have good access to a broad range of resources which reflect diversity and acknowledge cultural differences. Children use programmable toys and have good opportunities to learn about technology through a vTech laptop.

Children enjoy worthwhile activities that help to promote their physical development. They have regular access to the childminder's garden where they can use a see-saw, rocking horse and play ball games such as swingball and golf. They enjoy trips to parks where they can go on climbing frames, slides and swings. The childminder provides well balanced meals and snacks appropriate to each child's individual dietary needs. She promotes good eating habits through discussions with the children about foods that help to keep them healthy. Parents who choose to bring their own meals for their children are encouraged to provide healthy options. Children are beginning to learn the concepts of problem solving, reasoning and numeracy as they sing number songs and count how many trees they can see in the park. The childminder encourages children to count everyday objects and children have good access to puzzles and shape sorters.

Children's creative development is enhanced as they do arts and crafts and use play dough with shape cutters, rolling pins and moulding machines. They enjoy dressing up and using play food and kitchen equipment. Children have good access

to books and enjoy stories told by the childminder where they can interact and help to tell the story with the use of props and story tapes. They are encouraged to be critical thinkers as the childminder asks them questions about the characters in books. The childminder balances her time carefully to allow children to play independently as well as providing structured activities such as cooking biscuits and helping older children with homework. Children are relaxed and settled. This enables them to make good progress in their personal, social and emotional development. They are keen to learn and encouraged to try out new skills. This supports their developing independence and self-motivation. They enthusiastically attempt to put on their own clothing, feed themselves at meal times and older children manage their own personal hygiene. Children benefit from many outdoor activities. They meet with friends, visit children's centres where they can take part in messy activities such as different types of painting, including sand and water. They regularly go to parks and the local library for rhyme time.

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	2

The quality of the provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage

The quality of the provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage	2
--	---

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

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
---	-----

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