

Inspection report for early years provision

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Inspection date	22/04/2010
Inspector	Patricia Ann Edward
Type of setting	Childminder

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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 childminding

The childminder was registered in 1993. She is registered on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. She lives with her husband and three children of whom only one is a dependent, in the London Borough of Merton. All areas of her home apart from the first floor bedrooms are areas used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time and is currently minding three children in the early years age range whom attend on a full and part-time basis. The family has one cat and a rabbit.

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is inadequate.

The childminder has not implemented systems to evaluate her service and practice. Therefore, she is unable to effectively work towards improvements that promote positive outcomes for children. She has a limited understanding of the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage, which results in a number of breaches in regulations. The childminder demonstrates a warm and friendly nature which is conducive to welcoming all children and their families. However, her lack of understanding of the learning and development requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage means that systems for planning and observing children's progress towards the early learning goals are not in place. Systems for sharing information with parents and other practitioners are also not in place.

Overall, the early years provision requires significant improvement. The registered person is given a Notice to Improve that sets out actions to be carried out.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

To comply with the requirements of the EYFS the registered person must take the following action by the specified date:

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| • gain knowledge and understanding of the learning and development requirements in order to plan and provide a challenging and enjoyable experience for children in a way which reflects their individual needs and interests (Organisation) | 07/06/2010 |
| • request written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment (Promoting good health) | 07/06/2010 |
| • obtain public liability insurance (Suitable premises, environment and equipment)(also refers to the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare | 07/06/2010 |

- Register)
- conduct a risk assessment of the indoor and outdoor environment and review this regularly, identifying aspects of the environment that need to be checked and maintain a record of these and when and by whom they have been checked. (Suitable premises, environment and equipment) (also refers to the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register) 07/06/2010
 - ensure smoke alarms fitted on all floors are in working order (Suitable premises, environment and equipment) 07/06/2010
 - develop knowledge and procedures for dealing with concerns and complaints from parents and how to keep a written record of complaints and their outcome (Safeguarding and promoting children's welfare). 07/06/2010

To improve the early years provision the registered person should:

- establish an effective two-way flow of information about the children's individual learning and development with other early years providers
- develop knowledge of safeguarding children issues to be able to implement procedures in line with the Local Safeguarding Children's Board guidance and procedures
- obtain written parental consent for outings
- promote positive attitudes to diversity through activities that encourage children to talk about similarities and differences to help children to value aspects of their own and other peoples lives
- gain the skills required to effectively self-evaluate the setting's strengths and priorities for development that will improve the quality of provision for all children.

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder has a satisfactory knowledge of the categories and signs of abuse. However, she lacks knowledge and understanding of implementing procedures in line with Local Safeguarding Children Board guidance. This could compromise children's safety in the event of a child protection concern. The childminder has addressed some of the recommendations raised at the previous inspection. For example, she has ensured everyone over the age of sixteen is suitably vetted. She has also devised an emergency evacuation plan. The childminder practises this with the children, however details are not recorded. Requesting written permission from parents to seek emergency medical advice or treatment is not in place, this was raised at the last inspection so an action has been reapplied. Children's safety in the event of a fire is not fully protected because the smoke alarm on the ground floor of the home is not in working order. The childminder has not implemented an effective system to record risk assessments of the home or outings.

The childminder has developed appropriate relationships with parents and has basic procedures in place to gather and record information about the children and their welfare. However, no written parental consents have been obtained for outings. Parents are not encouraged to be involved in their children's learning and are not asked about their views in terms of their children's starting points and development. The childminder is not aware of her legal duty to record all written complaints, obtained from parents. The children are treated with equal concern and the childminder provides individual care and nurture to children. The childminder has not implemented a system to identify areas within her practice that require development in order to improve outcomes for children.

Children access resources from those available and freely move around during their play. They have weekly visits to local facilities, such as childminding groups and local parks. However, the childminder has limited knowledge of the Early Years Foundation Stage learning and development requirements. She has no systems or processes in place to observe, assess and plan for each child's learning. Therefore children's developmental progress is not monitored to enable them to reach their full potential. Systems to establish firm links with other providers for the children who attend pre-school or nursery have not been developed. This does not promote effective continuity of care and education for children.

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

Children have an easy relationship with the childminder and are happy and secure in her care. They are confident to approach her for comfort and reassurance during the course of the day. All children are valued and any specific requirements, such as dietary or preferences, are respected. The childminder provides some activities, such as looking at books and they have access to imaginative play resources, which mostly maintain their interest and enjoyment, however, the activities do not offer challenge. The children show good imaginative skills as they pretend to make dinners and take the action man for a walk in the buggy. Children benefit from regular outdoor play. They go out for walks in the parks and visit community groups where they have opportunities to use large apparatus, thereby developing an understanding of the importance of exercise and fresh air.

Children begin to learn about healthy eating as they are offered nutritious snacks and drinks in line with parents' preferences. Drinking water is always available and children can freely access this when feeling thirsty. Children are developing an appropriate understanding of hygiene and are encouraged to clean their hands before eating and after using the toilet. The childminder holds an up-to-date first aid certificate, and a suitably stocked first aid kit is readily available to deal with any emergencies. Children are developing an awareness of their own safety as they listen to the childminder's reminders about sharing toys.

The childminder has paid insufficient attention to identifying children's starting points and their individual needs for learning and development. Her lack of understanding of the learning and development requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage means that she is not providing experiences which effectively

cover all areas of learning and diversity. The childminder has a very limited understanding of the children's next stages in development, and she has not developed any procedures to observe, assess and plan for each child. This does not ensure that activities provided are spontaneous or that they are based on children's individual needs or interests. The childminder generally supervises children rather than supporting and extending their play.

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?	4
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement	4

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

How effectively is the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?	4
The effectiveness of leadership and management in embedding ambition and driving improvement	4
The effectiveness with which the setting deploys resources	3
The effectiveness with which the setting promotes equality and diversity	4
The effectiveness of safeguarding	4
The effectiveness of the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement	4
The effectiveness of partnerships	4
The effectiveness of the setting's engagement with parents and carers	3

The quality of the provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage

The quality of the provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage	4
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Outcomes for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage

Outcomes for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage	4
The extent to which children achieve and enjoy their learning	4
The extent to which children feel safe	4
The extent to which children adopt healthy lifestyles	3
The extent to which children make a positive contribution	4
The extent to which children develop skills for the future	4

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Annex B: the Childcare Register

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

Not Met (with actions)

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

Not Met (with actions)

The registered provider does not meet the requirements of the compulsory and or voluntary part/s of the Childcare Register.

To comply with the requirements of the compulsory part of the Childcare Register, the registered person must take the following action/s by the specified date:

- implement a written statement of procedures to be followed for the protection of children, intended to safeguard the children being cared for from abuse or neglect (Arrangements for Safeguarding Children) (also refers to the voluntary part of the Childcare Register) 07/06/2010
- devise and implement a written procedure for dealing with concerns and complaints from parents and keep a written record of complaints and their outcome (Procedures for dealing with complaints) (also refers to the voluntary part of the Childcare Register) 07/06/2010
- take action as specified in the early years section of the report (Suitability and safety of premises and equipment and Insurance). 07/06/2010

To comply with the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register, the registered person must take the following action/s by the specified date:

- take action as specified in the early years and compulsory sections of the report (Arrangements for Safeguarding Children, Procedures for dealing with complaints, Suitability and safety of premises and equipment, and Insurance). 07/06/2010