

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY312061
Inspection date	29/09/2010
Inspector	Angela Ramsey
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 has been registered since 2005. She lives with her husband and adult son. They live in a three-bedroom flat in the London borough of Lambeth. The living room and play room upstairs are used for childminding purposes. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outdoor play. The property is close to local schools, parks and transport services.

The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and the voluntary and compulsory parts of the Childcare Register. She is registered to care for a maximum of three children under eight years at any one time; of these, two may be in the early years age range. She is currently minding three children in the early years age range, which is a breach of her registration conditions.

The childminder is also registered to provide overnight care for one child aged from four to eight years.

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is satisfactory.

The childminder's knowledge of children's individual needs and personalities means she is able to offer care and support to meet their individual needs. The childminder's warm approach helps children feel content, happy and settled. A varied range of age appropriate activities are provided. Observations and assessments of children are completed. The childminder has not yet started to self-evaluate her service. The result of this means she has not identified the strengths and weaknesses of her service with a view to making improvements. All the recommendations set at the last inspection have been complied with.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- implement a system to monitor and evaluate the provision to identify and address any areas for development

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder has a sound knowledge of the learning and development and welfare requirements for the Early Years Foundation Stage. Through discussions it is apparent that the childminder views self-evaluation of her service as important. However, a method to take into account the views of parents and is effective in identifying strengths and weaknesses of her provision is not in place.

Children are protected from potential harm as items, such as electrical socket covers, a fire blanket and smoke alarms are in place. Risk assessments pertaining to her home, garden and outings are also undertaken. The procedures for the safeguarding of children are sound. The childminder is aware of child protection issues and she is aware of what to do should she have any concerns about any child in her care.

The childminder builds secure relationships with the children, welcoming them into her family. Close relationships have also been built with parents to ensure children's care needs are met. Parents are kept up to date about the activities their child has taken part in. These daily conversations also include discussions on what their child has eaten, sleep times and their development. One of the children currently being cared for has recently started to attend another setting which also uses the Early Years Foundation Stage. The childminder is aware of the importance of liaising and sharing information to ensure continuity and coherence.

The childminder has successfully completed a first aid course. Written policies and procedures to support the care and welfare needs of children in her care have been devised and are shared with parents. Parental consents are also sought. For instance, parents provide their written consent allowing the childminder to take their children on outings.

Children's individual needs and abilities are respected. Visits to local childminding groups provide opportunities for children to socialise with children from different backgrounds. Resources are easily accessible in the play room. Books are available which reflect diversity enabling children to learn about the wider society and other cultural backgrounds.

The childminder is caring for more children than her conditions of registration allow. This is an offence unless the provider gives a reasonable excuse. On this occasion the provider did so and Ofsted does not intend to take further action.

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

Children feel safe and secure within the childminder's home and they have formed secure relationships with the childminder and her family. Written observations of the children are regularly completed. These include photographs and samples of children's creative work. These observations link to the six areas of learning and detail plans for children's next steps in learning.

The childminder has created a dedicated play room. Resources and play materials are organised in labelled containers to enable children to self-select what they want to play with. The childminder spends time with the children in her care offering them support in their learning and development. For example, the childminder sits with the children offering praise and encouragement as children sing songs such 'This old man'. During circle time children confidently spell their

names out loud. Children enjoy outdoor play. Opportunities for children to improve their physical skills are provided in the childminder's garden and in the outdoor play area at childminding groups. Where they are able to ride on tricycles and push buggies.

Children's behaviour is suitably supported. The childminder uses appropriate strategies depending on the child's age and stage of development to divert attention away from unwanted behaviour. The preparation of healthy meals and snacks which include plenty of fruit, vegetables and water to drink ensure young children are developing an awareness of adopting a healthy lifestyle. Children learn to develop self-care skills as they are encouraged to feed themselves.

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?	3
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement	3

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the Early Years Foundation Stage	3
The effectiveness of leadership and management in embedding ambition and driving improvement	3
The effectiveness with which the setting deploys resources	2
The effectiveness with which the setting promotes equality and diversity	3
The effectiveness of safeguarding	3
The effectiveness of the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement	3
The effectiveness of partnerships	2
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	3
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Outcomes for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage

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

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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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