

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	124592
Inspection date	10/11/2010
Inspector	Jane Chappell
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 assesses 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.

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

© Crown copyright 2010

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 1996. She lives with her three children aged 17, 14 and 11 years old. The family live in a four-bedroom house in a residential area within the London Borough of Croydon. The ground floor of the house is the main area used for childminding. A garden is available for outdoor play. The family have a dog.

The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and on the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. She is registered to care for five children under eight years old and there are currently two children in the early years age group on roll.

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 effectively promotes all aspects of children's welfare and learning. She offers an highly inclusive environment and is sensitive to children's individual needs. She has extremely good relationships with parents. She recognises and nurtures each child's individuality and has a secure knowledge of their individual needs, interests and abilities. She offers a good range of activities which support them in making good progress in their learning and development. The childminder is well organised and maintains required documentation mostly very well. She regularly reflects on the service she provides in order to ensure any areas for improvement are promptly identified and acted upon.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- develop further the record of risk assessment to fully reflect action taken following a review

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder has a clear understanding of her responsibilities with regard to child protection issues, and the steps to take if she has concerns about a child in her care. All adults in her home are suitably vetted. She ensures all required documentation is in place and accessible, although some records lack detail. The childminder ensures that children are kept safe within the home and on outings and is vigilant in her supervision of the children to keep them safe. Risk

assessments are reviewed for each outing and when new children start. However, not all new action taken is recorded routinely. The childminder reflects on her practice on a regular basis and identifies areas for improvement, to ensure that all children are well supported. She keeps herself up to date with relevant changes and makes effective use of training opportunities. For instance since her last inspection she has completed a recognised early years qualification.

Partnerships with parents is a real strength of the setting and enhances children's learning and has a highly positive impact on the continuity of care offered. A wealth of information is shared with parents both verbal and written, for example, the childminder emails pictures to the parents of their children involved in outings and activities, such as when they visit the Tower of London or enjoy a baking activity. Parents are very involved in supporting their child's learning and development, so that each child has consistent support from both home and the childminders. The childminder has also established links with the children's pre-school to ensure children experience continuity of care and learning.

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

Children are provided with good opportunities that enable them to make clear progress in their learning and development. They receive a warm and friendly welcome, into a child orientated home which helps them to feel safe and secure. Children have established close and warm relationships with the childminder and as a result show an extremely strong sense of security and belonging within the setting. They are settled, relaxed and confident in her care. The effective organisation of the toys and equipment allows children to independently self-select to fully promote their independence in making choices for their own play and learning. Where they are not able to reach, they confidently gesture or ask for the toys that they require.

The childminder's sound understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage ensures good outcomes for children in all areas. She is realistic in her expectation of children and provides activities and learning opportunities both inside and outside of the home environment, which enable children to progress at a pace that suits them individually. She is careful to observe children as they play, taking note of their learning and then is able to plan appropriately to help them to move forward. Systems for recording are constantly being developed.

Children enjoy healthy meals and snacks and sit together sociably to enjoy their food. Regular discussion and cooking activities enable children to learn about different foods, where they come from and how they are prepared. All individual requirements are known and respected, according to each child's needs. Children enjoy regular outings as they walk and explore in the local woods looking at the change of seasons as the leaves change colour and play make believe in the 'fairy house'. Children are actively encouraged in their social development as they attend toddler groups and participate in story time at the local library. At the childminder's home they enjoy making their own lunch as they cut up their bread into shapes

and count how many more triangles and squares they have left to eat. They excitedly look at photographs of themselves as they and the childminder recall activities and outings they have completed together. Young children enjoy having a cuddle as they get ready to go for a sleep and the childminder supports their early language development as she listens to them carefully and encourages them to try new words.

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

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the Early Years Foundation Stage	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
--	---

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	1
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
--	-----