

Inspection report for early years provision

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Inspection date	28/02/2011
Inspector	Teresa Elkington
Type of setting	Childminder

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T: 0300 123 1231
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E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
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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.

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Description of the childminding

The childminder was registered in 2009. She lives with her husband and two children aged three and 11 years, in Chessington in the Borough of Kingston. The whole of the house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder's home is accessible to those with limited mobility.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of three children at any one time. She is currently caring for one child in the early age group on a part-time basis. The childminder is registered on the Early Years register and both parts of the Childcare Register.

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is satisfactory.

The childminder works with a sufficient understanding of the individual needs of children, which enables her to meet their learning and welfare needs satisfactorily. Children are happy and settled as the childminder provides a relaxed and friendly family environment. The childminder has an understanding of the benefits of effective partnerships with parents and other settings. The provision for assessment and planning is still in its infancy and as yet, not fully implemented to ensure that children's learning and development are effectively planned for. The childminder shows an awareness of the importance of self-evaluation to enable her to plan for her future development and to ensure the continued outcomes for children.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- practice the evacuation procedure to ensure children develop an awareness of how to respond in the event of an emergency
- develop the use systematic observations and assessments of children's achievements, interests and learning styles in all areas of learning to plan challenging, relevant and motivating play experiences for each child indoors and out, across all areas of learning and development
- organise resources to ensure all children can benefit from a wide range of attractively presented play opportunities at all times and extend resources to reflect diversity
- review the use of risk assessments to ensure that all aspects of the provision have been considered for example, the use of the trampoline

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder understands her responsibilities with regard to safeguarding children. Appropriate guidance and up-to-date legislation are at hand, should there be any concerns regarding any child's well-being. She is vigilant within the home to ensure the children's safety at all times and risk assessments are in place for most aspects of the provision. However, the trampoline has not been included in the risk assessment process. Necessary fire equipment is in place to protect children in the event of a fire, however fire evacuation is not practised with the children and therefore a fire drill log is not maintained. Children actively seek support and cuddles from the childminder showing that they feel safe and secure in her care. All required documentation is in place and maintained effectively.

Since registration the childminder has started to evaluate the service she provides and has identified improvements to be made to support children, for example, she has accessed additional training to support her developmental needs. The childminder is realistic in her approach and adequately identifies her strengths and weaknesses. A adequate range of resources are available, however, the lack of organisation does not enable children to self select at all times. The childminder provides an inclusive practice for all children as she recognises and acknowledges them as individuals. However, resources to reflect diversity and disability are scant.

The childminder supports partnership working with parents and provides them with her policies and procedures and requests that they completed relevant documentation. She makes time for the regular exchange of information, which ensures that she understands parents' wishes for the care of their children. Although the childminder is not currently caring for children who attend another early years setting, however, systems are in place to support communication links when required.

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

Children are cared for in a homely environment where they are making adequate progress in their learning and development. They readily look to the childminder for reassurance and support. Children benefit from the positive interactions of the childminder who is on hand to guide and support, for example, she aids their physical development as they pull themselves to a standing position. Children enjoy looking at books where they turn the pages with ease and enjoy discovering the different textures which helps to arouse their senses. Early communication and language skills are recognised by the childminder as she actively offers praise and encouragement in learning new vocabulary.

Children enjoy opportunities to go out and about each day. Regular visits to the library and local parks provide children with access to play equipment to develop the use of their large muscles. Children's favourite toys and resources are set out

for them to enable children to follow their own interests and desires. They access a sufficient range of role play resources, for example, shopping trolleys and play food. Children happily explore the play tent where they crawl in and out and play peek-a-boo with the childminder. Children have opportunities to grow and tend to plants in the garden, promoting children's awareness of growing and living things from an early age. Sharing is actively encouraged by the childminder as she reminds children to share the toys that are available. Clear behaviour management policy in place which is discussed and agreed with parents, ensuring that a consistent approach is adopted.

Childminder has an adequate awareness of how to plan for children's learning and play, and facilitates children's interests through the range of activities and resources that she has available to them. She has a basic understanding of the six areas of learning and endeavours to plan play experiences around these. "All about Me" sheets have been completed by parents which provides the childminder with a basis for children's learning and development. Learning journals are available although these are not currently being used as this process is in its very early stages of development.

Children are beginning to develop an awareness of the need to have a healthy lifestyle. The childminder has clear systems in place for procedures such as changing nappies and ensuring that children have clean hands before mealtimes. An agreement is made with parents as to who will supply food for the children and the childminder has an awareness for caring for children with dietary requirements. The childminder is able to care for children appropriately in the event of an accident as she holds a current first aid certificate. Accident and medication records are maintained well and written permission for emergency treatment is sought from parents.

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	3
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	3
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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