

Inspection report for early years provision

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Inspection date	18/04/2011
Inspector	Linda Coccia
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 1992. She lives with her two adult daughters in a three bedroom, three-storey house close to Plumstead Common in the London Borough of Greenwich. Childminding generally takes place on the ground floor. The childminder is registered to provide overnight care therefore one of the bedrooms is also available to children. There is a fully enclosed back garden that is used for outdoor play. The family have a pet dog and two cats.

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 a maximum of six children under eight years at any one time. At present she is regularly caring for 20 children in a variety of part-time places. The youngest is aged 23 months and the eldest is aged 11 years. There are six children who fall within the Early Years foundation Stage. The childminder is currently supporting some children with special needs and/or learning difficulties. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. She is a Greenwich Network childminder and a member of the National Childminding Association.

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is outstanding.

The childminder is extremely effective at meeting children's needs because she has an excellent understanding of how children learn and develop. The childminder has made a number of changes to her premises which means children are further safeguarded. This shows the childminder is able to maintain the continuous improvement of her service. Overall, her self evaluation is outstanding.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

To further improve the high quality early years provision the registered person should consider:

- strengthen the quality improvement processes in the setting, recognising how these processes can extend effective practice and help improve the outcomes for children.

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder is highly organised. All of her regulatory paperwork is maintained in an outstanding manner. For example, the few accidents that are recorded are informative yet concise. All adults residing on the premises hold current Criminal Record Bureau checks. The childminder's risk assessments are comprehensive. She

has changed her double glazing and installed a stable door at the back entrance. Both changes mean that children are more secure. The childminder promotes home safety with the children. They regularly practice the emergency evacuation procedures which are then recorded and evaluated. This helps children to understand about keeping themselves safe in an emergency. Children's well being is promoted. The childminder has carried out an excellent evaluation of her service. She has critically analysed the way she works and as a result she has made changes to some of her practices. For example, children visit more off site venues which means they can socialise with more children of their own ages. The childminder has an excellent range of resources which are stored in large clear boxes in order for children to choose their own activities. Some resources go everywhere with the childminder. For example, the magnifying glasses. These are taken on any trips out so that children can examine in more detail the things they find. Children have easy access to their toys.

The childminder has a great deal of experience of caring for children with special needs and/or learning difficulties. She has an excellent attitude towards equality and diversity issues and promotes these with the children. For example, there is a lovely display on the kitchen wall of showing photos of the children she is or has minded playing together. The labelling shows the words unique, different, special with an overall heading which states 'we are all different and it is these differences that makes us unique'. Whilst the children eat their meals they often discuss the photographs and the children in them with the childminder. Children learn about each other's differences. The childminder is outstanding in her ability to work in partnership with other care settings and schools. She is a well known figure to many local playgroups and a number of local primary schools. She makes sure she exchanges information with all of them on a regular basis to help the children feel safe as well as making sure their individual needs are being met. She provides outstanding support for children and their parents when other health or social care professionals are involved. Having previously been a qualified nurse the childminder is able to explain medical terminology to parents and can also suggest practical ways to deal with sometimes complicated issues. Parents report that they feel supported by the childminder. Many report that their children see her as an extended member of their families. One parent states that her child 'kicks up a fuss' when it is not his day to go to the childminder. The childminder maintains contact books for the youngest child minded children. Regular verbal discussions about their children take place daily with parents. This means that children receive excellent, consistent care because regular discussions of their needs take place.

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

Children generally arrive happy and eager to play. Each child is warmly welcomed by the childminder who is usually rewarded by big smiles. All of the children say good morning to each other. The childminder has excellent settling in procedures to help children feel secure with her. These times also enable the childminder to collect valuable information about the children's interests and abilities from their parents. Children show they feel safe in the setting through the pleasure they

show at just being there.

Children enjoy reading books with the childminder. She positions them so that they can see the words as well as the pictures. She explains difficult words and gives examples as well as reading the stories. This helps to improve the children's vocabulary. She has an excellent range of factual and fictional books for the children to choose from. Children's creative talents can be seen in their artworks which are displayed. They make cards and small gifts to take home. They particularly enjoy playing in the garden with the wide variety of toys available. They may use play medical sets to tend the sick dolls or draw or paint at the easel. Football is the chosen physical activity of the older boys. They are restricted to a particular area in the garden so as not to interfere with the younger children. Children use construction equipment very well; building toys to enhance their play. For example, castles for the small world figures. They gain an extensive knowledge of the world around them through discussion with the childminder and accompanying her to different interesting venues of their own choosing. The children are encouraged to think for themselves and make their own decisions. This promotes their reasoning skills and helps them to develop some excellent skills for the future. The childminder's routines and day plans are flexible so that children can make the best use of their play times and the activities. The childminder keeps meticulous records of the children's starting points and progress through their learning. She readily identifies children's next steps, creates individual activity plans for each child and records children's achievements. The records show that children are making excellent progress towards the Early Learning Goals.

Children have an excellent understanding about the foods which are good for them. They are consulted about what they want to eat. They choose from a wide range of food which is healthy and nutritious. The day's meals are displayed on a chalk board in the kitchen. They help the childminder to prepare food using knives appropriate to their ages. The childminder displays a number of posters which show children healthy options and at meal times the children may talk about them. The children use excellent hygiene procedures during their self care routines. There are plenty of opportunities for physical play at local parks and woodlands. Children are beginning to adopt a healthy lifestyle. Children are always consulted about the childminder's plans for the day and have choices as to when and how activities may be carried out. She affirms any good behaviour or achievements with the child and to the other children. Children feel proud of their achievements. Each child can be a good role model for the others. Children have a thoroughly enjoyable time with the childminder.

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?	1
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement	1

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the Early Years Foundation Stage	1
The effectiveness of leadership and management in embedding ambition and driving improvement	1
The effectiveness with which the setting deploys resources	1
The effectiveness with which the setting promotes equality and diversity	1
The effectiveness of safeguarding	1
The effectiveness of the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement	1
The effectiveness of partnerships	1
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	1
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Outcomes for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage

Outcomes for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage	1
The extent to which children achieve and enjoy their learning	1
The extent to which children feel safe	1
The extent to which children adopt healthy lifestyles	1
The extent to which children make a positive contribution	1
The extent to which children develop skills for the future	1

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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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