

Inspection report for early years provision

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Inspection date	08/11/2011
Inspector	Jennifer Devine
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 registered in 1993. She lives with two adult relatives and their young child in Hayes, in the London Borough of Hillingdon. The ground floor is mainly used for childminding with sleeping facilities upstairs. There is an enclosed garden for outdoor play. The childminder is registered on the Early Years register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare register. She may care for a maximum of three children under eight years at any one time and of these, three may be in the early years age range. She currently cares for three children in the early years age range. The childminder has pet cats.

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from the warm and affectionate care the childminder provides. This enables them to feel secure, to explore their surroundings and make steady progress in most areas of their early development. However, there are limited opportunities for children to develop their experiences of the outdoor world. Overall, the childminder maintains children's health and safety, though records of risk assessments are not thorough and first aid training has lapsed. She has sound relationships with parents and keeps them informed on a daily basis about their child's day. The childminder has not yet developed her self-evaluation processes fully, though in discussion demonstrates some capacity to make improvements.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

To meet the specific requirements of the EYFS, the registered person must:

- complete an appropriate paediatric first aid course (Suitable people)(also applies to both parts of the Childcare Register) 28/11/2011
- improve the record of risk assessment so that it includes information on who conducted it, date of review and any action taken following a review or incident (Suitable premises, environment and equipment). 28/11/2011

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

- improve the opportunities for children to experience a varied range of outdoor activities to stimulate interest and familiarity with their local community

- update the record of risk assessment to include any assessments of risks for outings and trips
- develop observation and assessment methods of children's development in order to plan support for the next steps of each child's learning.

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder safeguards children's welfare appropriately. She has a sound understanding of her role and responsibilities with regard to child protection. She knows the procedures to follow if she has concerns about a child. Currently the childminder's first aid certificate has expired but she is booked on a refresher course very soon. This breach in a welfare requirement will therefore have little impact on the children. The childminder ensures her home is safe by completing a daily record of the visual checks on the environment. However, this information does not include all the required detail and this is a breach of a welfare requirement. The record of risk assessment does not cover outings either, which is good practice. All other required documentation such as attendance records, accident and medication records are in place.

Play resources are clean and safe. Toys and play materials are accessible for children to help themselves and so promote their independence. There is sufficient space available to allow children to investigate their surroundings in comfort. The childminder is beginning to self-evaluate her practice and identify some areas for improvement. She is aware of the need, for example, to develop her knowledge of the Early Years Foundation Stage learning requirements. The childminder has the capacity to maintain adequate continuous improvement.

Overall, the childminder provides an inclusive provision to children and parents. Children receive suitable support, as the childminder is aware of their individual needs and routines. She holds discussions with the parents before their child starts, to build up her knowledge. The childminder has a small range of resources reflecting different cultures, such as books, dolls and puzzles. She looks at different festivals throughout the year and this enables children to experience positive images of diversity. There are fewer opportunities for children to experience the local environment outside the home. Apart from going shopping with the children, the childminder does not attend any community activities, for example, to extend their knowledge of the wider world.

Children receive appropriate and consistent care as the childminder establishes sound partnerships with parents. The childminder provides parents with verbal feedback everyday and children's records are accessible for parents to view. Currently the childminder has no contact with any other agencies or other providers who care for the same children. However, she is aware of working in partnership to ensure continuity of care when this occurs.

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

Children spend time in a loving and caring environment in which they feel secure to investigate their surroundings. The childminder builds up suitable relationships with the children who are settled and approach her for reassurance throughout the day. The childminder keeps some records of observations on the children's development. However, she is less confident in identifying the next steps of learning to aid planning of future activities and experiences. Despite this, the childminder does have a sound understanding generally of child development. She provides suitable toys and activities to capture children's interest and eagerness to learn.

Children enjoy developing their imagination as they explore paints. They giggle in delight as they paint their hands and make handprints. There is a generally good balance of adult-led and child-initiated activities to allow children chance think critically and become active learners. For example, the childminder sits with the children to start a puzzle and then leaves them to complete this independently. The childminder interacts with the children all the time and talks to them as they play, asking questions to make them think. Children are developing their understanding of letters and words. They enjoy finding the names of their friends on small bricks. The childminder has a good understanding of developing children's love of books. She has a wide selection of appropriate books and children choose their favourite ones. Children have generally good opportunities for developing their skills for the future. They enjoy a short time on the computer, demonstrating their skills at operating the mouse and following instructions.

Children have satisfactory opportunities to develop their physical skills as they play in the generally well-equipped garden everyday. They enjoy running around and using equipment like the seesaw, swing and slides. However, children's outdoor experiences are limited, as the childminder does not take them out for walks, for example to local parks or toddler groups. Children are developing an understanding of being kind and help to look after the pet cats. Children's behaviour is appropriate for their age and the childminder has suitable strategies in place. She offers lots of praise to children to promote their self-esteem.

The childminder takes reasonable steps to ensure children learn about keeping healthy. Currently parents provide their children's meals and the childminder stores and reheats food appropriately. Children receive reminders to wash their hands before eating and the childminder generally promotes good hygiene. Children are developing their understanding of keeping safe as they practise the fire evacuation procedures. The childminder talks to children about safety in the home. She reminds them about the dangers of climbing or being aware that the slide in the garden needs drying to prevent them slipping. Children demonstrate that they feel secure and safe in the childminder's care as they become absorbed in their play. They smile and laugh with the childminder and are confident to play on the floor to explore their surroundings.

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:

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:

- take action as specified in the early years section of the report (Welfare of the children being cared for)(also applies to the voluntary part of the Childcare Register). 17/11/2011

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 section of the report (Welfare of the children being cared for). 17/11/2011