

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	137721
Inspection date	12/03/2012
Inspector	Catherine Greene
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 2012

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 1998. She lives with her husband, two adult children and one child aged nine. The childminder lives in Kingsbury, in the London borough of Brent. The living room on the ground floor and the bathroom on the first floor of the childminder's house are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden. She is registered to care for a maximum of four children under eight; of these, three may be in the early years age group. She has four children, two in the early years age group and two after school on roll. The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register, compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register.

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is good.

This caring and experienced childminder provides a welcoming and inclusive environment for children. She is developing her understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage and welfare requirements. She is committed to updating her childcare knowledge and has support systems in place within the local authority. The childminder follows risk assessments to secure children's safety and well-being. This means they can access most areas of the childminder's home safely. Overall, she has started to reflect upon her practice, and has the capacity to continue to make improvements for the benefit of the children. Through this process, she has met the actions raised at the last inspection and is committed to the continuous improvement of her setting.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- extend opportunities for children's play and learning in the garden.

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder is confident about the procedure to follow if she has any concerns about a child's welfare. She has a child protection referral guide on file for reference and has had training in this area. She carries out daily safety checks of her premises and outings, and keeps a record of risk assessment. Children play safely as they are very well supervised. The childminder carefully follows safety procedures in place, such as carrying out fire drills and ensuring her car is safe to transport children.

Children enjoy a variety of activities and resources that are effectively used to

promote the development of skills for the future. Evaluation of children's development is mostly thorough with some examples of home learning and inclusion of home languages. Children's individuality is recognised and nurtured by the childminder. She has a secure knowledge of their backgrounds, individual needs, interests and abilities. Books and resources are within children's reach to support children's growing independence. The childminder actively promotes equality and diversity. She has a good understanding of children's individual backgrounds and languages spoken. The childminder works very positively in partnership with parents and others involved in children's education at the local school and clubs that children attend.

The childminder prioritises working in partnership with parents in order to develop respect for each child's individuality. Parents' contributions are included in children's profiles in order to give them the opportunity to have a say in this valuable learning and development record. Parents are very positive in their praise of the childminder. They state that 'my child has made huge progress since she has started with the childminder'. The childminder evaluates her provision. She has effectively assessed all areas of her practice to check that all legal requirements are met. Since her last inspection she has completed training which has increased her knowledge of child protection procedures, first aid and areas of children's learning and development.

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

Children's confidence and self-esteem is promoted by the childminder who ensures that they feel safe and secure by offering comfort and reassurance. Daily routines are well established; the childminder is focused and enjoys her work. As a result, children show a clear understanding of expectations of their behaviour and benefit from a stimulating atmosphere.

Children have good opportunities to develop their future skills through enjoyable play activities. They play well independently. They absorb themselves in creative play with a range of sensory and colourful shapes and different craft materials. The childminder effectively complements children's learning with fun activities which reinforce and further develop their knowledge and skills. She supportively interacts with children as they sit together to play with a large bowl of water filled with animals. She effectively develops children's vocabulary as she repeats the names of the animals as children say them. Children are learning to pronounce the names of the animals and have great fun as they imitate the noises they make. When sticking the connect pieces together children point to additional pieces as the childminder helps them to make the desired shape. They show a good understanding of problem solving, for example, as they know they need extra pieces as they put them together and build a tower.

Children gain a good understanding of a healthy lifestyle. The childminder's policies and procedures are effective in protecting them from illness and infection. As a result, children play in a mostly clean, home environment. Due to her thorough risk

assessment, the childminder is not currently using the garden for children. She is negotiating to have the unsafe shed removed in order to make use of this extremely valuable outdoor learning resource. The childminder does however use local parks and children's centres to provide children with opportunities for large physical play.

Children show that they enjoy snack time as they talk to the childminder and ask for an apple. Parents provide a healthy packed lunch for their children. The childminder takes care to re-heat and serve the lunches for children who are suitably seated at a low-level table. Children are aware of their own needs and drink when thirsty. They have good relationships with the childminder. They are happy and at ease in her care showing that they feel safe and secure. They show a growing awareness of how to keep safe as they move around the play area. Overall, children are content and relaxed and their behaviour is good. This is because they play with toys of their choice, sensitively supported by the childminder who is attentive to their needs.

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	2

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	2
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
--	-----