

Inspection report for early years provision

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Inspection date	03/11/2011
Inspector	Pamela Paisley
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.

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Description of the childminding

The childminder registered in 1997.

She is registered on the Early Years Register and on the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. The childminder lives with her father and two children, one of whom is an adult and the other a teenager. They live in Thornton Heath within the London borough Of Croydon. The whole ground floor and bathroom facilities on the first floor of childminder's home are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outdoor play. The family has a cat. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children aged under eight years at any one time, and of these no more than three may be in the early years age group. She is currently minding one child on a part-time basis in the early years age range. She is a member of Croydon Childminding Network.

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is outstanding.

Children are cared for in an extremely organised environment where they are free to express themselves and gain confidence in initiating their own activities. Children are making excellent progress in their learning and development and gaining high levels of achievement. Highly effective partnerships between the childminder, parents and other providers involved in the children's care ensure individual children's needs are met extremely well. The childminder has vast experience in meeting the needs of most children. She is committed to attending relevant training courses in order to maintain continuous improvement and outstanding outcomes for children.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- developing further knowledge of how to support children with special educational needs and/or disabilities.

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder recognises that safeguarding children's welfare is her first priority. She has attended several relevant training courses and has comprehensive procedures in place to follow should she have concerns about a child in her care.

The childminder's self evaluation reflects rigorous monitoring of what she does well and what areas she wants to improve. The childminder has highlighted that she would like to gain more knowledge of how to support children with special educational needs and/or disabilities. Since the last inspection the childminder has made improvements to her record keeping to ensure that all necessary written parental consents are in place and clear records are kept of when children are being cared for by an assistant. There are extremely well organised policies and procedures in place that are well written and underpin the valuable service the childminder provides. Records are meticulously kept and shared and discussed with parents. She organises the space and resources in her home with great regard for the children in her care so they can move around and play safely. An effective range of safety devices, such as safety gates, socket covers and smoke alarms are fitted throughout the childminder's home and she carries out extensive risk assessments to minimise risks to children.

The childminder provides an extensive range of highly stimulating play materials and resources that are of high quality. They are extremely well organised in child height units to encourage independence and support children's learning and development. The childminder has exceptional knowledge of each child's background and needs and ensures that she provides activities and experiences that take into account each child's capabilities and starting points. The childminder is highly committed to working with other providers delivering the Early Years Foundation Stage to ensure progression and continuity of learning and care for all children. The childminder has a highly positive relationship with parents. They are very well informed about all aspects of their children's achievements, well-being and developmental progress through the use of a daily journal. The childminder has regular meetings with parents to discuss how they can support their children's learning at home. Consequently, the outcomes for children and their experiences are excellent.

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

Children greatly benefit from being cared for in a highly stimulating child centred environment. The childminder uses her extensive knowledge of the Early Years Foundation Stage to ensure that children's all round development needs are greatly enhanced. Observations and assessments are used very effectively to plan for children's next steps of learning. Children take part in an excellent range of purposeful and developmentally appropriate indoor and outdoor activities which provide high levels of challenge appropriate to their age and stage of development. Children have excellent opportunities to be creative and imaginative through listening and making music with instruments, acting out stories, dancing to music, cooking, role play, painting and drawing. Children are gaining confidence through excellent support from the childminder who spends time talking and listening to them and encouraging them to talk about what they are doing. Children are learning about knowledge and understanding of the world through purposeful activities and experiences. They often plant seeds and flowers in the childminder's

garden and are learning about the life cycle of caterpillars, frogs and ladybirds. Children have excellent use of information and communication technology equipment, such as a computer which they can use independently, electronic activity centres, cameras and telephones to support their learning. Children have great opportunities to learn about their local community through regular trips to local supermarkets, libraries, banks and the post office. They have excellent opportunities to learn about what is dangerous and how to keep themselves safe. They practise regular fire drills to help them become familiar with emergency evacuation procedures.

Children have innovative opportunities to engage in a wide range of physical activities. The childminder's garden is very well equipped with hoops, bikes, pedal cars and sit and ride toys. Children often visit parks where they can run around and use climbing frames and swings. Children show an excellent understanding of healthy eating and make healthy choices at snack and meal times. They choose their own fruit when visiting shops and the childminder provides a substantial range of cultural dishes allowing them to try new tastes and flavours. Children are extremely confident and display high levels of self-esteem. They make their own choices about activities and choosing play materials. They are very independent in their personal care and can dress themselves and put on their own shoes. Children are very settled and have excellent relationships with the childminder who knows them extremely well. Children are gaining excellent use of language and able to express themselves well. Books are very accessible and very creatively displayed in an area where children can relax on soft furnishings to read or look at books of their choice. Children can write their own names and are starting to recognise words in print. Children have access to an extensive range of books and resources that promote positive images of culture, ethnicity, gender and disability. Children's knowledge and understanding about diversity is strongly enhanced as they celebrate various festivals throughout the year and have a chance to taste foods from around the world and discuss how other people live, 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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