

Inspection report for early years provision

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Inspection date	07/03/2011
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.

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Description of the childminding

The childminder registered in 1998. She lives with her husband in Wealdstone, in the London borough of Harrow. The childminder uses mainly the ground floor of her premises for childminding purposes and there is a secure, enclosed garden for outdoor play. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children, of whom three may be in the early years age range. However, she currently has a variation to allow her to care for four children in the early years age range for a time limited period. She is currently minding four children in the early years age group and two children in the later years age group. The childminder is registered on the Early Years register, and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register.

The family have a pet dog. The childminder is a member of Harrow's childminding network group.

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is good.

Children are settled and happy within the childminders care. She shows warmth and kindness to each child and provides a secure, stimulating environment to help them grow and make good progress in their development. Most of the required documentation is in place. The childminder has a good understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage and plans a generally suitable range of activities and experiences which meet each child's individual needs and interests. She works closely with parents to ensure she meets the unique needs of each child. The childminder is enthusiastic and committed to continually monitoring and evaluating the service she provides to ensure she maintains a quality service.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- ensure parental permission is obtained at the time of each child's admission, to the seeking of any necessary emergency medical treatment in the future (Safeguarding and welfare) 08/04/2011

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

- develop knowledge of how to provide opportunities and support children in developing their understanding of problem solving, reasoning and numeracy with everyday activities

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder understands the importance of safeguarding the well-being of children in her care and is aware of the child protection procedures to follow if she was concerned about a child. The childminder places a strong emphasis on children's safety within the home and when outdoors. Risk assessments are undertaken which ensure hazards are identified and removed.

Children are able to move freely and independently around the home and garden, whilst still under the close supervision of the childminder at all times. The childminder maintains most of the required documentation, such as the medication and accident records. However, she has not obtained all parents written permission for emergency medical treatment and this compromises children's welfare. The childminder organises her home and play resources well, enabling children to make choices freely and safely. Children can choose from a range of age appropriate toys stored at a low level to support their increasing independence.

The childminder is committed to her professional development and this is reflected within a generally comprehensive self-evaluation of her provision. She is aware of her continuous development and recognizes areas for improvements. The childminder has attended many training courses and makes effective use of these opportunities to increase her knowledge and keep updated with changes to legislation and new ideas.

Children receive appropriate and consistent care because the childminder has established effective relationships with parents. They are kept well informed about their child's day through daily verbal communication and by using daily diaries for some children. The childminder seeks parent's views in the form of a questionnaire and uses their comments to make improvements. Parental comments indicate they are very happy with the care provided.

The childminder provides an inclusive service for children and families. They are well supported as the childminder is aware of children's likes, dislikes and routines through talking with parents before their child starts. The childminder plans trips out to several community activities such as to toddler groups and this helps children socialize and develop an understanding of the world around them. The childminder has an awareness of the importance of embracing diversity and has obtained key words in the children's home language to enable her to offer support. She plans activities throughout the year around festivals which helps children gain an awareness and value differences. The childminder is aware of liaising with other agencies such as the nursery to ensure she provides continuity of care and learning.

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

Children are looked after in a caring and loving environment where they are developing their confidence and enjoy investigating their surroundings. The childminder sits with the children to offer support and encourage their learning. She is understanding to individual children's needs and offers lots of reassurance to help them settle and feel comfortable in her home.

The childminder has developed a good understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage and has generally effective methods in place for observing and assessing children's development. She has made links in her observations to the six areas of learning and identifies each child's next steps for learning.

Young children have good opportunities to make decisions about their play and enjoy sitting on the floor playing with a range of exciting activities. They excitedly play with the new dolls house and use their imagination as they walk the dolls up the stairs and put them to bed. They are intrigued with the small furniture and spend some time investigating and looking closely at the features. Toddlers enjoy finding their favourite cars and enjoy pushing them along the floor.

There is a generally good balance of adult-led and child-led activities to help children develop into active and creative learners. They spend time colouring in pictures as the childminder feeds the baby and then take part in focussed activities such as sticking. The childminder offers children the choice of animal pictures and they stick tissue paper onto their picture. They eagerly join in with planting, filling their pots with soil and planting their flowers. Although the childminder carefully supervises this activity she misses opportunities to develop or extend the children's understanding of numbers and counting. The childminder has a good understanding of developing children's love of books. Children can access their favourite books from the book box and sit with the childminder looking at these. They particularly enjoy a book about different vegetables and fruit and talk about the ones they like to eat.

Children have good opportunities to develop their physical skills as they go out everyday for walks to the local parks, toddler and music groups. They can also play outdoors in the well-equipped garden where they enjoy playing in the sand and water. Children's behaviour is appropriate for their age and the childminder has effective strategies in place by offering lots of praise to them to promote their self-esteem. Children are reminded about safety in the home and learn about being kind to each other and to the pet dog. Children are adopting caring attitudes as they show kindness to the young baby and find her toys or attempt to read her a book when she becomes unsettled.

The childminder takes reasonable steps to ensure children in her care remain healthy and free from cross infection. Children do not attend if they are unwell. The childminder holds a current first aid certificate and this enables her to deal with accidents appropriately. The childminder promotes a healthy eating lifestyle. She provides home cooked

foods which are nutritionally balanced and meet children individual dietary requirements. Drinks and snacks are readily available, as required. Children's self-help skills are developing as they help to prepare their snacks and carefully cut up the banana. The childminder promotes good hygiene by ensuring she talks with the children about the importance of washing their hands before eating their meals and after using the toilet. They have individual wash bags with their own towels to prevent cross contamination.

Children are developing their understanding of keeping safe within the home. She involves the children in regular fire practices so that they develop an understanding of evacuating the home safely. They learn about road safety when outdoors and the childminder takes every opportunity to talk to the children about crossing the roads safely. Children have taken part in group activities run by the traffic club to raise their awareness further. Young children are safely strapped into the pushchair when out walking or on reins and can run freely when they are in safe place. The childminder uses a motor vehicle for transporting children and is fully aware of car safety, such as having appropriately fitted car seats.

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
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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

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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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