

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY295466
Inspection date	25/02/2009
Inspector	Mauvene Burke
Type of setting	Childminder

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 report includes information on any complaints about the childcare provision which Ofsted has received since the last inspection or registration whichever is the later, which require Ofsted or the provider to take action in Annex C.

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.

Description of the childminding

The childminder was registered in 2004. She lives with her adult son and her four-year-old daughter in the London borough of Lambeth, close to shops, parks, schools and public transport links. The childminder's home is situated on the second floor of a block of flats with lift access. The whole of the childminder's home, with the exception of her son's bedroom, is used for childminding.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children under eight years at any one time, of whom no more than three may be in the early years age range. She is currently minding four children in this age group. She also offers care to children aged over five years to 11 years. The provision is registered by Ofsted on the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register.

The childminder collects children from the local school and attends several toddler groups on a regular basis. She is a member of the National Childminding Association and has a Nursery Nurse qualification.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall, the quality of the provision is good. Children are making good progress in their learning and development because the childminder has a good understanding of the early learning goals. The environment is inclusive and welcoming which ensures that the individual needs of children are soundly met and well supported. The childminder has good relationships with families but has yet to develop links with parents and other providers to support children's progress. The childminder reflects on her practice on a regular basis in order to continually improve the service she provides and to ensure that she is responsive to the needs of children and their parents.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- improve the two way flow of information with parents and other providers to promote a shared understanding of children's individual needs and involve them in practical ways to support their child's learning and development.
- carry out regular evacuation drills and record the details in a fire log book of any problems encountered and how they were resolved.

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

- keep a record of risk assessments that is reviewed regularly and which includes outings

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The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder organises her provision well. She is dedicated to her role and works hard to ensure that good practice is followed consistently. The regular attendance of training means that her knowledge and skills are kept up-to-date, such as Safeguarding Children; Basic Food Hygiene and Health and Safety. She is supported by a good range of written policies and procedures that clearly detail her practices and which are personal to her setting. She has most of the necessary documentation, records and consents in place to enable her to meet the individual needs of each child in her care and works closely with parents to meet any specific family needs. She shares information with parents on a daily basis about the activities and routines followed. However, systems are not fully developed which completely involves parents in their children's learning journey and their next steps, such as the sharing of the children's assessments. In addition to this, the childminder has not formed links with other pre-school forums that the children also attend to ensure that children receive consistency in their care and education.

The childminder checks the premises daily to ensure that areas are safe and suitable for the children to access, however she has not made a record of these or reviewed them regularly, neither has she carried out assessments for outings that children are taken on. A clear fire evacuation procedure in the form of a map is in place, but the childminder has not practised the drill, this could compromise children's safety in the event of a fire. The childminder has a secure knowledge of the indicators of abuse and neglect and is aware of the correct procedure to follow if she has any concerns about a child in her care. All required documentation is basically in place and is stored confidentially. Children's individual records are clear and up to date, therefore promoting quality care.

The childminder is committed to updating and improving her knowledge and practice and has started to evaluate the strengths and areas for improvement of her provision. She keeps abreast of changes in child care practice by reading magazines such as Who Minds and through surfing childcare websites and is currently undergoing a NVQ Level 3 qualification even though she has a Nursery Nurse qualification. The recommendations raised at the last inspection have been fully addressed, showing her commitment to improve.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children are treated very much as the individuals that they are and as a result, they are relaxed, happy and confident in the childminder's care. Sensitivity is shown to children who are learning English as an additional language through the childminder using sign language and learning words in the child's home language. Children in this setting are provided with a good selection of age appropriate toys that are easily accessible and which are of a good quality.

The childminder is adept at supporting their learning. She makes regular written and photographic observations of children and uses these to assess children's individual stage of development and to plan activities to further extend their

learning. As a result, children are making good progress in their development mainly because the childminder has a very secure understanding of the stages of development that children pass through. Children display high levels of involvement in activities and persist for extended periods of time at activities of their own choosing such as when they play with the small world equipment. Children are keen to learn new skills and further develop ones they have, such as sewing puppets. They engage in meaningful conversation with each other and with their childminder who extends their language by asking questions to extend their language and to make them think. Children enjoy speaking about past and future events and shares these with the provider. Older children can confidently count beyond ten and are beginning to represent numbers using fingers and making marks on drawings such as the number of legs on the sheep, which happened to have ten legs. Children are calculating as they add and take away legs on the sheep.

The childminder takes good steps to safeguard and promote the children's welfare. Their health and well-being is effectively promoted and all necessary steps are taken to prevent the spread of infection or when they are ill. Children are learning about the importance of keeping themselves healthy through eating healthy food and protecting themselves from the spread of disease. For example, they wash their hands without having to be reminded and know that if they eat well, they will be 'big and strong'. Rooms used by the children, furniture, equipment and toys are entirely suitable and safe and children learn about keeping themselves safe, for example, when out on the road. Children receive ongoing praise and encouragement from the childminder, which develops their confidence and self-esteem.

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

Overall effectiveness

How effective is the provision in meeting the needs of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage?	2
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	2
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	2

Leadership and management

How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?	3
How effective is the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement?	2
How well does the setting work in partnership with parents and others?	2
How well are children safeguarded?	2

Quality and standards

How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?	2
How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?	2
How well are children helped to stay safe?	3
How well are children helped to be healthy?	2
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	2
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	2
How well are children helped develop skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being?	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
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The provider confirms that the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register are:	Met
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Annex C: complaint/s made to Ofsted

This section of the report includes details of any complaint/s made to Ofsted when:

- we took action for the provider to meet the requirements of the Early Years Register; or
- we asked the provider to take action in order to meet the requirements of the Early Years Register; or
- the provider had already taken any necessary action to meet the requirements of the Early Years Register.

We will not report on any complaint where the provider met the requirements of the Early Years Register or did not require any action by Ofsted or the registered provider.

Detail of the complaint/s

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the last inspection.

The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by parents, which they can see on request. The complaints record may contain complaints other than those made to Ofsted.