

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY309437
Inspection date	03/03/2009
Inspector	Martha Naa Ahimah Darkwah
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 has been registered since 2005. She lives with her husband and two children aged 15 and eight years in a basement flat situated in Fulham. The local authority is Hammersmith and Fulham. All areas of the flat are used for childminding. There is no access to an outdoor area but children are regularly taken to the local park.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of three children at any one time in the early years age group. She is currently caring for two children in the early years age group, both of whom attend part time. The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register.

The childminder has no pets. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall, the quality of the provision is good. Children are cared for in a clean home environment which is safe and secure. The childminder works effectively in partnership with parents, which enables her to offer individual care to each child. She promotes an inclusive environment, where each child is treated with respect. The childminder observes the children, gets to know each one of them well and helps them to engage in a range of activities and have fun. She is flexible and considerate and she makes sure that their individual needs are met. The childminder understands the importance of evaluating her childminding service and has the capacity to make continuous improvements.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- improve information on children's starting points and further develop observations of children to effectively support planning for their next steps in learning
- make the store room inaccessible to children

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder evaluates her work effectively. She identifies areas of strength and areas for further development. She frequently attends local authority training courses to update her knowledge and skills and is making good progress in gaining an understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage framework.

The childminder has established good working relationships with parents and

carers. She shares information with parents which includes details of her training, her policies and procedures and her insurance cover. She also provides details of how they can contact the regulator if required and she maintains a record of complaints and compliments which parents can see on request. The childminder makes daily notes about children's general welfare to share with parents at the end of each day. She also observes the children and takes photographs of them when they are taking part in different types of play and activities. She has started to record each child's learning progress beginning with information given by their parents. However, it is not in sufficient detail to help her to plan for children's progress in all areas of their learning. She discusses children's progress in general terms with their other carers which helps them to work together to support the children in their learning.

Space is well organised providing a child centred environment and enabling children to play and explore safely and comfortably. A good range of safe and suitable play equipment, materials and furniture are provided enabling children to eat, play and rest safely and comfortably.

The childminder is safety conscious and carries out regular risk assessments in all areas of her home and garden. However, children's access to a store room has been overlooked. She has also devised an escape plan to be followed in the event of an emergency regularly practised with the children and recorded in sufficient detail. As a result, they have now become familiar with it to assist with their quick and safe evacuation from the home, should the need arise. The childminder talks to the children about keeping safe when out in the local community for example, children are asked to stop, look and listen when crossing the road.

The childminder safeguards children well in most respects. She maintains her knowledge and understanding of child protection matters and she knows what signs or symptoms indicate abuse. She keeps contact information to hand in case she has concerns and needs to contact relevant agencies.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The childminder helps children to learn about keeping safe by teaching them about road safety on their daily walks and they also learn not to run indoors to avoid accidents. Children enjoy healthy snacks of fresh fruit. They have frequent drinks and tasty meals when they are with the childminder. She works hard to provide a varied range of foods and most children eat their meals with enthusiasm. Children learn good personal hygiene from the childminder who encourages them to eat with clean hands and brush their teeth after meals.

Children are busy and happy when they are with the childminder because she provides them with interesting activities and a good range of toys and resources. She supports the children when they are playing and helps them to learn new words such as colour words, positional words and the names of animals. Children really enjoy mark making and they hold their pencils firmly to make straight and curved lines of which they are very proud. Children sometimes have sorting and matching activities, solve puzzles and the childminder counts aloud with them.

Children's early skills in literacy and numbers are generally well supported through activities and their daily routine.

Children benefit from playing with a very good selection of small world toys with the childminder. They enjoy action songs and enact their favourite songs with joyful movements and much giggling. Children apply glue and use crayons very confidently. Children enjoy regular visits and outings in the local area. They meet and play with other children at the local pre-schools and places of interest which gives them opportunities to develop their social skills. They also learn about the area outside the home on their daily walks to and from local places of interest.

The childminder has begun to observe, assess and record each child's learning and development. Her notes are useful but as yet they do not identify enough information on the children's starting points and the next steps to help her to plan for children's progress in all areas of their learning.

The childminder manages children's behaviour using positive methods, appropriate to their level of understanding. Praise and encouragement are also used to enable children to develop confidence and good self-esteem. Children are learning about sharing toys and being kind to each other. The childminder helps them develop their understanding of how to respect others and develop positive relationships. The childminder works closely with parents to ensure they are kept well informed and are able to contribute to their child's welfare, learning and development.

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?	2
How effective is the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement?	3
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?	2
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?	3
How well are children helped develop skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being?	3

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.