

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY365765
Inspection date	24/09/2008
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 lives with her husband and their three children, aged seven, three and seventeen months old. They live in a two bedroom first floor flat in a purpose-built block in the Walworth area in the London borough of Southwark. The property is accessed via a communal lift or stairs. Children have access to the living room, one of the bedrooms and toileting and washing facilities. There is no outdoor play area.

The childminder is registered to care for two children, one in the early years age group and one in the later years. She is registered on both the compulsory and the voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. There are currently two children on roll, one of whom attends on a full-time basis whilst the other attends before and after school only. Neither of these children were present during the inspection.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The childminder is unable to demonstrate that she has a secure knowledge and understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage which means that it is unlikely that children will make good progress in their learning and development. This also means that their welfare is compromised in some areas. The childminder's understanding of what inclusive practice is and what it means for individual children is limited. Partnership with parents is also weak as there is no shared starting point at the start of placements as to what children can do. Any progress children do make has not been identified and therefore not communicated with parents. This is mainly due to the childminder's lack of understanding regarding the educational programme.

Overall, the early years provision requires significant improvement. The registered person is given a Notice to Improve that sets out actions to be carried out.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

To comply with the requirements of the EYFS the registered person must take the following action by the specified date:

- develop knowledge and understanding of the procedures to follow relating to any allegations of serious harm or abuse by any person living or working, or looking after children on the premises (Safeguarding and promoting children's welfare) (also applies to both parts of the Childcare Register) 10/10/2008
- develop knowledge and understanding of equal opportunities and ensure that there is an effective policy in place (Safeguarding and promoting children's welfare) 10/10/2008

- request written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment (Safeguarding and promoting children's welfare) 10/10/2008
 - develop awareness and understanding of effective ways to manage children's behaviour, taking into account their age and stage of development (Safeguarding and promoting children's welfare) (also applies to both parts of the Childcare Register) 10/10/2008
 - conduct a risk assessment of the premises and review it regularly and ensure that the cleaning agents in the toilet are inaccessible to children (Suitable premises, environment and equipment) (also applies to both parts of the Childcare Register) 10/10/2008
 - develop knowledge and understanding of how children learn through their play and undertake observations of children in order to plan and provide experiences to meet young children's individual needs as they progress towards the early learning goals (Organisation). 10/10/2008
- To improve the early years provision the registered person should:
- increase children's opportunities to access toys for themselves and make choices as to what they play with
 - ensure planning and provision of activities, toys and resources promote diversity including disability.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder is unfamiliar with the new framework. Although most policies and procedures are in place, the childminder demonstrates a limited understanding of how these should be effectively implemented to ensure that the welfare of children is safeguarded. Although it is her policy to ensure that parents read through and sign to confirm they have understood the policies, there is no evidence to show that this has taken place. The childminder works in partnership with parents at a basic level. For example, she ensures that contractual agreements are in place and that parents inform her of their children's likes and dislikes and other relevant information, such as allergies. However, she is unable to demonstrate how she provides parents with good quality information about the service she offers, such as the curriculum that they should be following or any progress that the children have made. As a result, parents are not able to be actively involved in their children's learning; this is mainly due to the fact that the childminder has a very limited understanding of the educational programme.

This is the provider's first inspection and so therefore she has not had any recommendations or actions to meet. Further to this, she has not been able to submit her self-evaluation form due to a technical fault. Nonetheless, she was unable to suggest ways of how she thinks her setting could be improved, apart from reading the framework.

The childminder has successfully completed the pre-registration training course for childminders and has a valid first aid certificate.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Through discussion with the childminder, it is evident that children are not provided with enough opportunities to help them to make progress through the stepping stones towards the early learning goals. The childminder does not plan for individual children and she is unclear about the usefulness of observations in terms of using them as a tool to help children to move on in their development. The childminder stated that children are taken out to childminding drop-in groups within her area allowing children opportunities to socialise with other children.

The childminder's home is generally safe as she has taken steps to minimise most hazards. A safety gate is placed at the entrance to the kitchen to prevent unsupervised access and the childminder ensures that smoke alarms and the fire blanket are in good working order. Nonetheless, she has not carried out a risk assessment of her premises and so potential hazards such as the cleaning substances on the window sill in the toilet have not been identified and are currently easily accessible to children. The childminder has a reasonable understanding of her responsibility to ensure that children are safeguarded whilst in her care. Her procedures for reporting concerns about children in her care are in line with those of the Local Safeguarding Children Board. However, she is not aware of the procedures that must be followed if an allegation of abuse is made against her or a member of her family and spoke about reporting concerns to her 'supervisor' (early years advisor).

The space available for children to play is somewhat limited and although there is a satisfactory range of play materials, these are mostly stored in one of the bedrooms on top of cabinets and in drawers, making access to them and free choice difficult for minded children. Toys are not stored in any particular order, for example, in age groups, thus making it even more so difficult for children to choose age appropriate activities. Most of the toys are safe and in a reasonable condition but a few are broken, or do not work because there are no batteries in them.

The childminder generally has a clear understanding of the procedures and records necessary to promote children's good health. For example, the childminder demonstrated a clear understanding of the procedures to follow in the event of a child having an accident and the administration of medication. However, she has not received written permission from parents to seek any necessary emergency medical advice or treatment. Children's dietary requirements are suitably met because the childminder ensures she has the necessary information about children's allergies from parents at the start of placements. However, the childminder admitted that she sometimes gives children cakes and sweets as a way of encouraging them to behave well. She was unable to demonstrate effective methods of managing children's behaviour.

Although there is an equal opportunities policy in place, it is vague and the

childminder was unable to say how she implements this policy within her setting, stating that 'children are treated the same whether they are black or white'. Children do however have access to some resources that positively promote diversity, such as dolls, but these are limited and there are none that promote disability.

Annex A: record of inspection judgements

The key inspection judgements and what they mean

Outstanding: this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality

Good: this aspect of the provision is strong

Satisfactory: this aspect of the provision is sound

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?	Inadequate
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	Inadequate
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	Inadequate

Leadership and management

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

Quality and standards

How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?	Inadequate
How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?	Inadequate
How well are children helped to stay safe?	Inadequate
How well are children helped to be healthy?	Inadequate
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	Inadequate
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	Inadequate
How well are children helped develop skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being?	Inadequate

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:

Not Met (with actions)

The provider confirms that the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register are:

Not Met (with actions)

The registered provider does not meet the requirements of the compulsory and or voluntary part/s of the Childcare Register.

To comply with the requirements of the compulsory part of the Childcare Register, the registered person must take the following action/s by the specified date:

- take action as specified in the early years section of the report 10/10/2008

To comply with the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register, the registered person must take the following action/s by the specified date:

- take action as specified in the early years section of the report 10/10/2008

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 registration.

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.