

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY367343
Inspection date	15/12/2008
Inspector	Jane Nelson
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 2007. She lives with her husband, and children aged seven and four years, in a house in Twickenham, Middlesex, in the London Borough of Richmond. There is level access to the home. The through living room on the ground floor, and two bedrooms on the first floor are used for childminding. Bathroom and toilet facilities are located on the ground floor. There is access to a fully enclosed garden for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and on the compulsory Childcare Register, to care for a maximum of four children under eight, two of whom can be within the early years age group. She is also registered on the voluntary part of the Childcare Register to provide care for children aged over eight. She is currently caring for four children under five who all attend on a part time basis. The childminder regularly attends local parents and toddler groups with the children. The family have a pet Yorkie Schnauzer miniature dog, a cat and keep goldfish.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The childminder provides a well organised, child orientated environment with a welcoming and friendly atmosphere. The good selection of play materials, activities and the range of experiences provided inside, and outside the home, encourage children's development well, in all areas. Inclusion is promoted due to the childminder's knowledge of all the children's individual needs and her organisation of the daily routine. Systems are in place to record children's development, although this is not yet implemented for all children. Documentation is well organised and maintained, although, some records lack detail.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- develop the use of observations and assessment relating to children's developmental progress, for all children
- make sure the record of risk assessment states when the risk assessment was carried out, by whom, the date of review and any action taken, and includes outings and any specific activities
- develop the use of self evaluation to identify areas for improvement and how these can be achieved
- obtain parents written consent for any specific activities, such as, swimming

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder's home is well organised, safe and child orientated with a welcoming and friendly atmosphere. The good range of activities and play

experiences provided are well planned, with a mix of home based play, visits to local play groups and drop ins, and outings to local parks and nature reserve. The varied and interesting selection of play equipment and materials available is attractively presented and easily accessible to children, enabling them to make choices about what they play with.

Systems are in place to record children's development, for example, good use is made of photographs and descriptions to demonstrate this for younger children. However this is not yet fully developed to include older children and illustrate how information is shared between other settings attended by the children, such as, part time school or playgroup.

Good relationships with parents ensure information is shared well, and enable continuity of care for children with their home routines and regular practices being followed by the childminder. Creative use of a photo slide show playing on the computer screen, of outings and activities children have enjoyed, demonstrates what the children do while in the childminder's care.

The home is safe and secure, with safety precautions, such as stair gates, in place to minimise risk to children's safety. Records indicate the childminder's evacuation procedure is practised regularly with the children, helping to ensure safe evacuation of the premises in an emergency. Documentation is generally well organised, although, the record of risk assessment does not indicate that this was recently reviewed and what action was taken during the review. Although visual risk assessments take place before outings, no record is maintained of these, and parents written consent is not obtained, prior to activities, such as, swimming. The childminder's understanding of child protection issues and the procedure to follow if concerns arise, protects children's welfare.

Some informal use is made of self assessment to identify areas for development, such as, the childminder attending training ,which demonstrates a commitment to continual improvement. Although areas, such as, developing the use of assessment for all children and reviewing risk assessments have not been identified.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children are very happy, secure and settled in the childminder's care. They enjoy exploring the good range of toys that are set out attractively on the floor. Children's independence is encouraged by some play materials being stored within their reach, so they can help themselves. Children are able to indicate that they want something from a high shelf by standing looking at it, so the childminder responds by putting a container of natural materials, such as brushes, on the floor, that children then explore. Children concentrate, when using the play kitchen and cooking with pretend food. They watch the childminder and her husband's reactions, when they serve them food to see if they enjoy 'eating' the food. Children explore texture, as they handle materials, such as, tissue paper and cotton wool, with the childminder helping them to glue these onto pre cut out Christmas shapes. A photo slide show playing on the computer screen, of outings

and activities children have enjoyed, captures the children's interest and promotes responses when they see themselves on screen.

Children respond to the childminder's warm and caring interaction with them, she sits on the floor joining in their play, making suggestions, encouraging their language by asking questions and talking about what they are doing. A child sits comfortably on her lap and enjoys listening to a story before lunch. Children are well supported as they gain confidence with independent walking by the childminder holding their hands, and encouraging cruising around low furniture. Children behave well, they are busy and interested in their play. Their achievements and positive behaviour are valued and they receive constant acknowledgement and praise which, promotes their self esteem. Children learn about the world around them, for example, by visiting groups in the community and having access to resources such as play figures and books that reflect the world they live in.

Children follow practices, such as hand washing, that are part of their daily routine, increasing their awareness of good hygiene. They enjoy a healthy diet and sit comfortably in highchairs to eat their lunch of sandwiches. Children help themselves to drinks from individual beakers, when they are thirsty. Children's good health and physical development is encouraged through regular exercise, such as, daily outings to parks, walks to and from school and outdoor play in the childminder's garden.

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?	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 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.