

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY379788
Inspection date	12/05/2009
Inspector	Laura Brewer
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 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 2008. She lives with her husband and two children, aged six and three years, in a house in Beckenham, in the London Borough of Bromley. The property is accessible to local schools, parks and transport services. The whole of the property is available for minding purposes. Toilet facilities are provided upstairs. There is an enclosed garden available for children to have outdoor play opportunities. The family has a pet cat and fish.

The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. She is registered to care for four children under eight years old, of whom two may be in the early years age group. Currently the childminder cares for four children from 13 months to seven years. All children attend on either a part-time or out of school basis. The childminder is first aid qualified and has completed pre-registration training.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is good. Children are content and settled in the childminder's care and have established close relationships. The setting is bright and welcoming and provides a safe and secure environment for children to enjoy. The childminder is clear about areas of her provision she would like to develop and demonstrates a commitment to continuous improvement. The childminder has built close working partnerships with parents to ensure she offers an inclusive service where she meets children's individual needs well.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- improve the assessment arrangements by ensuring children's developmental assessments clearly link to the early learning goals in order to demonstrate progress for each of the six areas of learning.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder demonstrates a strong commitment to promoting children's welfare and safety at all times both in and out of the setting. She has completed safeguarding awareness training to ensure she is able to follow correct procedures in the event of having concerns about children's welfare. The childminder has developed clear records and procedures to support her work, share information with parents and to ensure that children's health and safety is consistently monitored and promoted.

The childminder effectively evaluates her provision and takes action where necessary. She has clear aims for future development to enhance the service that

is provided. She has identified that her assessment arrangements could be improved and has plans in place to attend training to assist her in developing these.

The childminder establishes strong partnerships with parents and ensures that she is well informed about each child's individual requirements. She offers a gradual settling in process dependent on the child's individual needs to ensure they are comfortable and confident in their new environment. Communication between the childminder and parents is good to ensure parents are fully informed of their child's day and achievements. The use of contact books aids information exchange and provides parents with useful information about their child's individual care routines.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children's learning and development are supported well by the childminder, who has established warm, supportive relationships. She uses her observations of children's developmental stages to plan a wide range of interesting activities. Individual assessment records are in place for each child attending, which include photographic evidence and samples of work. They are used to identify children's next steps for learning, although currently they are not matched against the stages in the early learning goals in order to identify any gaps in children's learning.

The organisation of routines is flexible in order to incorporate children's individual needs and stages of development. Children benefit from visiting a range of interesting places, such as parks, 'bounce and rhyme' sessions at the library and toddler groups, where they have good opportunities to develop their social skills and mix with their peers. Babies are happy and show delight as they bang on a xylophone and respond excitedly when they hear the noises that are produced as they experiment with shakers and bells. Older children demonstrate good fine motor skills as they use scissors to cut pictures out of magazines of clothes that they may wear in the summer. Children have good opportunities to explore the outdoors, they regularly play in the garden and are able to develop their physical skills and abilities whilst visiting parks.

The childminder's home is warm, welcoming and child-friendly. Resources are stored in low level baskets which enable children to access them freely in order to initiate their own play and learning. There is a range of toys and equipment in place which reflect positive images of diversity to help children to develop positive attitudes. The childminder promotes children's safety and has devised risk assessments for places that are frequently visited to ensure any hazards are minimised. Children also learn how to keep themselves safe, for example, by learning about dangers on the roads. Children's good health is promoted. They are offered a range of healthy snacks and meals, which helps them to learn about nutrition, and the childminder encourages good hand washing techniques to ensure the spread of infection is minimised.

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?	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?	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

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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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