

Inspection report for early years provision

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Inspection date	05/03/2010
Inspector	Teresa Elkington
Type of setting	Childminder

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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.

Please see our website for more information about each childcare provider. We publish inspection reports, conditions of registration and details of complaints we receive where we or the provider take action to meet the requirements of registration.

Description of the childminding

The childminder lives with her two children, aged six and 10 years, in the London Borough of Bromley. Minded children have access to all areas of the childminder's house and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The childminder is registered to provide care for five children under eight years, of whom no more than three may be in the early years age group. Currently, there are three children on roll, all of whom attend on a part-time basis. The childminder is also on the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register.

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is good.

Children are cared for in an inclusive and welcoming environment where their welfare and learning needs are effectively met. Children make good progress in their learning and development due to the childminder's clear knowledge and understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage. Relationships with parents are well established, which fosters a partnership approach to care and learning. The childminder has targeted plans for the future and shows a commitment to sustainable improvement.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- develop the links and partnerships with other settings to ensure information regarding children's progress and achievement is shared on a regular basis to help plan for and support children's future learning and development
- develop the use of reflective practice and self-evaluation to identify strengths and priorities for development that will continuously improve the quality of the provision for all children

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder has a sound knowledge and understanding of child protection issues and has formulated effective procedures in support of this area of her work. Thorough risk assessments have been undertaken which include all areas of the home as well as outings. This ensures a safe environment for children. All regulatory documentation is in place and stored effectively to maintain confidentiality. Children's health is well promoted through the effective procedures that the childminder adopts. The childminder shows a good awareness of her strengths and weaknesses, however, the lack of self-evaluation inhibits progress in all areas of her provision to ensure the continued outcomes for children. All required training, for example, a childminding practice course and first aid course have been completed.

Children have access to a wealth of good quality resources, which are appropriately stored to promote their independence and freedom of choice. Children have ample space to explore the homely and well managed environment. The childminder provides a fully inclusive service, where individual needs are well supported and effectively planned for. Children have access to a good range of resources that reflect diversity which promote their awareness of the wider world.

Parents are provided with a range of policies and procedures and information about the Early Years Foundation Stage. This enables parental involvement in their child's learning which provides a consistent approach. Children's achievements are shared verbally on a daily basis and also through the use of learning journals. The childminder strives to work in partnership with other settings that her minded children attend, although this is not consistently applied for all children.

The quality and standards of the early years provision and outcomes for children

Children benefit from the high levels of support which they receive from the childminder. This in turn aids the development of children feeling safe and secure within her care. Children's level of independence is good and they are able to concentrate for sustained periods of time at their chosen activities. For example, children thoroughly enjoy their activity with the play food which they are able to cut with skill with the plastic knife. They are provided with challenge throughout their day as the childminder extends their learning through the good use of resources. Children show great curiosity in toys and how they work. For example, a child intently watches as he waits for the toast to pop up and shows delight as it does so.

The childminder raises children's awareness of their own personal safety when they are out and about by encouraging their awareness of road safety. Children have ample opportunities which encourage a healthy lifestyle. They access physical play and fresh air on a daily basis either in the garden or on outings. Meals are provided in consultation with parents and the childminder is aware of individual dietary needs. Children are encouraged to adopt good personal hygiene routines, such as washing prior to mealtimes. Good procedures are in place to support children who become unwell or have an accident while in the childminder's care.

Children are helped to develop positive relationships with each other as they make friends both at the childminder's and while they attend toddler groups. Positive behaviour is well fostered through the childminder's policy and her effectiveness as a good role model. Children's skills for the future are supported well through everyday routines and activities, which reflect children's interests and developmental stages. The childminder undertakes regular observations of children in their play and uses these to inform individual planning for their next steps in their learning.

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

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

How well does the setting meet the needs of the children in the Early Years Foundation Stage?	2
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement	2

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

How effectively is the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?	2
The effectiveness of leadership and management in embedding ambition and driving improvement	2
The effectiveness with which the setting deploys resources	2
The effectiveness with which the setting promotes equality and diversity	2
The effectiveness of safeguarding	2
The effectiveness of the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement	2
The effectiveness of partnerships	2
The effectiveness of the setting's engagement with parents and carers	2

The quality of the provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage

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Outcomes for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage

Outcomes for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage	2
The extent to which children achieve and enjoy their learning	2
The extent to which children feel safe	2
The extent to which children adopt healthy lifestyles	2
The extent to which children make a positive contribution	2
The extent to which children develop skills for the future	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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