

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	138436
Inspection date	12/11/2008
Inspector	Christine Bonnett

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 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 1997. She lives with her adult daughter and one son aged 15 in Ruislip Manor, in the London borough of Hillingdon. She is registered on the Early Years Register, and the voluntary and compulsory parts of the Child Care Register.

The ground floor of the house, which includes toilet facilities, is mainly used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. There is a step up to the front door.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding three children in the early years age group and four children in the later years age group. All children attend on a part time basis.

The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. She attends the local parent and toddler group. The family has two dogs.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Children are relaxed and content in the childminder's care. She provides an inclusive service that recognises the uniqueness of every child. Consequently, all children are well supported and make good progress in their learning and development. Effective links with parents are established which underpins the warm and consistent care provided. The childminder self-evaluates her practice and identifies areas for development to ensure constant improvement is made for the benefit of the children.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- gain knowledge of the six areas of learning to broaden children's learning experiences
- carry out a risk assessment on all types of outings to help promote children's safety.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder provides an inclusive service that recognises the uniqueness of every child. Consequently, all children are well supported and make good progress in their learning and development. Effective links with parents are established which underpins the warm and consistent care provided. Furthermore, the link made with the children's school ensures all parties work together to promote each child's individual learning needs.

The childminder has the capacity to self-evaluate her practice and identify areas for development to ensure constant improvement is made for the benefit of the children. For example, she has identified that she does not have an in-depth knowledge of all six areas of learning to be able to provide the broadest possible curriculum to enhance children's learning experiences.

The childminder successfully carries out recommendations made at previous inspections to promote the welfare of the children. For example, parents are now provided with Ofsted's contact details should they wish to raise concerns about her practice. Children's welfare is further promoted as the childminder has a good knowledge of child protection matters. She is aware of the indicators of abuse and the procedure to follow to report concerns.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children are relaxed and content in the clean and welcoming family home. Ample space is available for them to fully explore the play materials in comfort. Children's safety is generally well promoted. Detailed risk assessments are carried out on all areas of the home to identify and eliminate potential hazards. However, assessments have not been conducted for outings, and consequently children's safety is undermined.

Healthy meals and snacks are provided that take account of children's individual dietary needs. These include tuna pasta, Spanish omelette and fresh fruit. Drinking water is available throughout the day. Discussions about the content of the meals takes place with the children to enable them to learn about which foods are healthy and which to avoid.

Each child has an individual learning and development plan detailing their current stage of development, areas to work on and what experiences and play materials will be provided to achieve this. These are shown to parents and fully discussed and agreed. Children engage in a wide variety of activities each week that suit their needs. Some are adult led, such as craft work, and some are chosen by the children as they are able to self select the resources they wish to use. In addition, healthy exercise is encouraged through routine walks to the school, and playing in the park and back garden.

Children's future economic well-being is also fostered as the childminder encourages children to make progress in literacy and numeracy. Counting and problem solving are incorporated into every-day play activities, such as counting the play figures in the bus. Regular trips are made to the library to encourage children to value and enjoy books. Also, the childminder has attended the 'Letters and Sounds' course to promote speaking and listening skills in children through the use of phonetics.

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

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

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

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.