

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	137943
Inspection date	04/02/2009
Inspector	Linda Close

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 has been registered since 1996. She lives with her husband in a three bedroomed house located in a residential road in the Morden area of southwest London. The local authority is Merton. The downstairs rooms are used for childminding and these include a through lounge/kitchen/dining room and a sitting room. There are toilet facilities on the ground floor of the house. There is an enclosed garden available at the rear of the house for outdoor play. The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. She may care for a maximum of four children under eight years. She is currently caring for three children in the early years age group all of whom attend on a part-time basis. The childminder takes the children on outings which include a soft play venue, a toddler group, local parks and the library. The childminder is a qualified NNEB.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is satisfactory. Children are cared for in a warm and comfortable home environment which is safe in most respects. An affectionate bond exists between the childminder and the children and she makes sure that she gives them all individual attention which helps them to feel secure and valued. The childminder is not fully aware of the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage framework (EYFS). Children's outings and activities are appropriate but they are not selected to help children to move forward from their starting points to make the next steps in their learning journey. The childminder is willing to update her knowledge and skills to help her to maintain continuous improvement. She has implemented all of the recommendations made at the time of the last inspection.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- make sure that trailing tablecloths do not pose a hazard to children
- ensure that children are safe when using a high chair
- conduct a risk assessment for each and every venue visited with minded children
- take steps to raise knowledge and understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage framework
- develop assessment skills to identify children's starting points and plan ways to help them to take the next steps in their learning journey.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder is aware of the signs and symptoms that indicate abuse and she knows what to do if she has concerns for the welfare of the children in her care.

She has a clear policy and procedure which sets out her responsibilities in relation to child protection issues and this is shared with parents. She keeps children safe in most respects through conducting risk assessments although she has not recognised a few possible hazards in the home. She has not conducted a risk assessment for each outing she takes with the children which is required under the EYFS framework.

The childminder works very effectively with parents on all matters concerning each child's health, individual dietary needs and general welfare. All of the required permissions are given by parents and useful contact books are shared which ensures that the care of the children is appropriate and consistent but the information does not give a full picture of children's learning and progress or enable parents to fully support children in their learning.

The childminder has recently undertaken a self-evaluation exercise which has been partially successful. She has noted some strengths which include the recent renewal of her first aid qualification and her well organised routines. She has also identified some points for improvement which include more fire evacuation practice. However, she has not identified her lack of knowledge of the EYFS framework. Contracts, accident, medication and attendance records are all in place and they are kept correctly which helps to promote the efficient running of the childminder's service.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children are calm and relaxed when they are with the childminder. They freely explore the childminder's selection of toys and books and they confidently choose what they want to play with. The youngest children crawl fast and often pull themselves up to stand. Children choose from a range of books and they sometimes share the stories with the childminder. They are permitted to watch a selected range of children's television programmes for limited periods. The childminder encourages children to talk about what they see. She also responds well to the little ones when they babble and chatter to her.

Children become involved in imaginative play of their own invention. They make a house with dining chairs and play happily with favourite cars that they take into their house although there are few materials available that children can use to enrich this type of play such as fabric or cardboard.

The childminder forms a general picture of children's progress but she does not clearly identify what children need to learn next in relation to the six areas of learning. She does not link observations to planning what she will provide for them next or how she will support them in their learning. She takes children out to various venues each week. They take part in soft play, art and craft activities and music making as well as making trips to the park to feed the ducks and to look at the changes in nature. Children play with others on their outings which helps to develop their social skills. The childminder successfully promotes good behaviour. She is calm and firm and the children recognise the boundaries that she sets. Children's toys and some activities promote their understanding of a range of

people and cultures.

The childminder makes good use of safety gates in the home and she supervises the children well. She ensures that the little ones do not access toys with small parts that could be hazardous to them. However, she has not noted that a trailing tablecloth is a possible hazard or that older toddlers could fall if not secured with reins in a high chair.

The childminder sometimes helps children to learn about counting as they play and they are involved in mark making at their craft sessions. Their activities at the childminder's home, and at different venues, contribute appropriately to their future learning. Children learn about keeping safe when they go on outings because the childminder makes sure that they either hold her hand, sit in their buggy or are securely belted into their car seats. They develop good personal hygiene routines which include hand washing and cleaning their teeth. Children enjoy healthy meals provided by their parents and they are encouraged to take frequent drinks throughout the day.

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?	3
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	3
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	3

Leadership and management

How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?	3
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?	3
How well are children safeguarded?	2

Quality and standards

How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?	3
How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?	3
How well are children helped to stay safe?	3
How well are children helped to be healthy?	2
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	3
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	3
How well are children helped develop skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being?	3

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.