

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	114263
Inspection date	09/01/2009
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 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 1999. She lives with her husband and three adult children in Crawley, West Sussex. The ground floor of the property is used for minding, with children having access to a lounge area, conservatory and toilet facilities. A medium sized garden is also available to the children, which comprises of both a grassed and patio area. She currently has five children on roll in the early years age range, who attend on a full time and part time basis. The childminder is also registered on the compulsory and the voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. She walks or drives to local schools and pre-schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local toddler group. The family have two dogs. The childminder receives support from the local authority.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The childminder promotes all aspects of children's welfare, learning and development effectively. She provides a warm and welcoming environment, which provides children with a homely environment, which allows them to build trusting relationships with the childminder and her family. The childminder demonstrates a good knowledge and understanding of the needs and abilities of the children in her care and values their diversity. Effective partnerships with parents ensures that children's individual needs are met. The childminder displays a positive attitude to continuous improvement through the attendance of training in support of her work, which ensures that her knowledge remains up to date and everyday practice continually improves.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- continue to develop observation and assessment records to include links to the stages of development in the Early Years Foundation Stage in order to further inform future planning.

To fully meet the specific requirements of the EYFS, the registered person must:

- ensure written risk assessments are carried out in all aspects of the provision, and reviewed at least once a year. (Suitable premises, environment and equipment)

30/01/2009

The leadership and management of the early years provision

Children's welfare is safeguarded because the childminder has a thorough understanding of child protection issues. All adult household members are appropriately vetted and the children are under the constant supervision of the

childminder to ensure their safety. The childminder carries out visual risk assessments on the premises to ensure that all hazards are identified and necessary precautions are put into place. Periodic checks are made of all toys and equipment to ensure that they are safe for children to use. However, there is no record of when assessments have been carried out, to ensure that all aspects of the care are routinely assessed. The childminder manages children's information well and maintains clear recordings of accidents and of any medication administered. The childminder has a valid first aid certificate in place, which ensures that she can respond appropriately in the event of a child having an accident.

The childminder demonstrates a clear understanding of how children learn and is developing systems to track children's progress. She undertakes regular observations of what children have achieved, however, she has yet to use this information to plan for children's next steps in their learning, to enable her to fully support children's individual progress. Relationships with parents are good. The childminder is supportive of children's individual needs and actively works alongside parents to ensure that their welfare and developmental needs are fully met. The childminder works with external agencies and other care settings involved in the children's care and learning, which provides a cohesive approach from all agencies and provisions.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The childminder provides a welcoming and relaxed home environment for the children. As a result, children form healthy emotional attachments due to the warm and trusting relationships that they experience with both the childminder and her family. Children enjoy the positive interactions of the childminder; she offers cuddles, reassurance and actively supports and extends play and learning experiences, to support their individual development and help them to achieve important milestones in their lives. For example, babies are placed on their tummies and toys placed just out of reach to encourage them to stretch and to begin to make their first attempts at crawling. The childminder creates a stimulating learning environment where children's individual needs and interests are planned for, through child-initiated play and adult-led activities, which ensures that each child is helped to reach their full potential. Children have access to a wide range of resources, which provides for all ages and stages of development. The childminder rotates play resources to ensure variety of choice and to keep children enthused and interested in all that is available.

Children have good opportunities to explore and investigate through a range of activities that are provided for them to ensure that all can be involved. For example, children play with snow in the garden, which is then brought into the house to allow very young children to play and feel the texture of the snow, which arouses their senses, whilst older children are able to explore why the snow melts quicker indoors than outdoors. The childminder helps children to appreciate diversity and develop a positive view of society and the wider world. They listen to stories from different countries, explore artefacts, and celebrate festivals. Children benefit from consistent and appropriate praise for their positive actions, whilst

inappropriate behaviour is supported by a range of age appropriate strategies to help children understand right from wrong. Children's health and well-being is promoted through the use of effective policies and procedures to ensure that children enjoy a healthy lifestyle. The childminder supports individual health needs well and has systems in place to ensure that children are protected from the spread of infection. Children enjoy nutritious meals and snacks, which are provided by the childminder in consultation with their parents, and which take into account dietary needs and individual likes and dislikes. Good provision is available for children to play outside, and enjoy active physical play and fresh air.

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?	3
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:

Not Met (with actions)

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

Not Met (with actions)

The registered provider does not meet the requirements of the compulsory and or voluntary part/s of the Childcare Register.

To comply with the requirements of the compulsory part of the Childcare Register, the registered person must take the following action/s by the specified date:

- take action as specified in the early years section of the report 30/01/2009

To comply with the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register, the registered person must take the following action/s by the specified date:

- take action as specified in the early years section of the report 30/01/2009

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.