

Inspection report for early years provision

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| Unique reference number | EY268449 |
| Inspection date | 06/01/2009 |
| Inspector | Carole Gronow |
| 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 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 2003. She lives with her husband, and their three school-aged children in Eastleigh, Hampshire, close to local amenities such as schools, preschools, parks, and a sports and leisure centre. Although the whole of the property is available for childminding this mainly occurs downstairs with children going upstairs to use the bathroom and to sleep.

The childminder is registered to provide care for a maximum of five children under the age of eight at any one time and is registered on the Early Years Register and on both parts of the Childcare Register. The childminder is currently caring for three children from nine months to under three years old all of whom attend on a part time basis. She is a member of the National Childminding Association and she regularly attends the local parent-and-toddler group, tumble tots, and swimming sessions with children. The family have two cats.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Children are exceptionally happy and very well settled with the childminder who has an excellent knowledge of their needs and abilities. The very good partnership that has been developed with both parents and carers and the links established with other agencies helps to ensure that the childminder meets the individual needs of all the children and that there is continuity in the care that they receive at home. The childminder is committed to continuous improvement to the service that she provides and is beginning to evaluate this.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- continue to develop self-evaluation so that it effectively identifies areas to address in order to ensure ongoing improvement
- improve knowledge and understanding around safeguarding so that any concerns about children are responded to appropriately.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder strives to ensure that she establishes very good working relationships with parents and carers which benefit the children in her care. She works well with parents and carers to support all aspects of their child's development for example, with toilet training. A comprehensive range of policies and procedures means that parents and carers are provided with a good amount of information about the childminding service and the care their child receives. A great amount of detail about individual children's needs and preferences is sought by the childminder and the comprehensive 'Medical emergency and permission record form' that she has devised means that children will be cared for promptly if

there is a medical emergency. Children's records are stored individually and are regularly updated.

The childminder has given consideration to and is aware of her responsibilities to safeguard children. She has developed a detailed policy and procedure to cover this however is not fully confident about when to respond. The childminder makes her premises secure and all aspects of children's safety is given a high priority. For example, they talk about road safety daily when they are out walking. A detailed annual risk assessment has been undertaken and very brief ones have been done for outings. The childminder is informally evaluating her practice as she is working, however she has not identified all areas in order to prioritise those for development.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children are well supported in the childminder's home and enjoy their play and learning. They are so happy at the childminder's and enjoy being with her so much that when the time comes for them to go home they do not want to but plead with the childminder to do another activity such as some cooking. Children are confident, they happily ask the childminder to do different activities with them and she encourages them to make choices about what to play with from the wide range of play activities that are provided to meet their all round development. Children have a sense of belonging, they confidently and unprompted go into the toy cupboard to select from the well organised and clearly labelled containers stored there. This helps to encourage their decision making abilities as well as to promote their independence. Children are encouraged to develop this further for example, the childminder lets them go into the toilet on their own and she hands them clothes for them to try and dress themselves helping them when necessary.

The childminder is very knowledgeable about all aspects of each of the children that she cares for. This helps to provide an environment where they all enjoy a challenging and enjoyable programme of learning and development which is delivered through purposeful play with a balance of both adult-led and child-initiated activities. Each child has a folder in which the childminder is recording their development. She makes observations which she records and stores under the different areas of learning and development. She is now working on using her observations to see how individual children are progressing and uses these as her starting point to make plans to help children's continued progress.

Children's welfare is well promoted. They are cared for in a clean and well maintained environment where they learn the importance of developing healthy lifestyles. They enjoy daily outings, benefiting from fresh air and physical exercise. They attend local groups where they have opportunities to develop their social skills when meeting other children. They are learning about keeping themselves safe as the childminder explains any potential safety hazards such as why she removed the scissors when she left the children at the table with a craft activity and why they must not even touch the stair gate. They are familiar with the routines at the childminder's for example that before they get another activity out that the previous one needs to be tidied away. They happily help with this and

even go to get the dustpan from the kitchen. They enjoy stories with the childminder cuddling up with her on the settee to share a book, laughing at the childminder as she makes the different noises and joining in with familiar phrases.

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

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| 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

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| 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? | 3 |

Quality and standards

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| 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

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| 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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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 are no complaints to report 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.