

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	126688
Inspection date	29/09/2008
Inspector	Beryl Witheridge
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 1993. She lives with her husband and two adult children in Dartford, Kent. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding six children, part time, one of whom is over eight years. The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and on both the Voluntary and Compulsory parts of the Childcare Register. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local parent/toddler group.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The childminder provides a secure environment in which children are progressing well in the Early Years Foundation Stage. She makes sure she obtains knowledge of each child's background and interests. She works in partnership with parents and other agencies to ensure that children receive the best possible care. This results in their individual care, learning and development needs being met. Promoting children's welfare is given high priority by the childminder and clear safeguarding procedures are followed. The childminder has clearly identified the areas in which she wants to progress, helping ensure the outcomes for children continue to improve.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- ensure that all records are kept up to date including any existing injuries
- ensure the times of arrival and departure are recorded in the daily register
- extend the range of toys and equipment providing children with positive images of the diversity of society

The leadership and management of the early years provision

Children benefit from a comfortable, child orientated and welcoming environment. Resources are freely accessible and children can choose what they would like to play with. There is plenty space to play in as well as room to sit and relax. All resources and equipment are good quality and checked regularly for any damage. Daily visual risk assessments are carried out in the house and garden to keep children safe and protect them from injury. The childminder supervises children in the garden and outings to ensure they are kept safe at all times.

There is a folder for parents to read with some written policies and procedures. All the required documentation is in place but the register does not contain times of

arrival and departure of the children. The childminder has daily feedback with parents and has shared the Early Years Foundation Stage documentation with them.

Children that attend are provided with regular drinks, snacks and meals. Parents provide the food for their children. However the childminder has a good understanding of healthy diets and would discuss the choices with parents if she felt they were not providing children with a balanced diet.

The childminder has a high level of commitment to promoting the children's welfare. All adults who work in the house are suitable to do so and hold current Criminal Record Bureau Checks (CRB). The childminder has undertaken recent safeguarding children training and is clear about possible signs of abuse. She has a sound knowledge of the procedures to follow should she have any concerns about a child in her care.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children are provided with a well-planned and comfortable environment in which their welfare is fully considered and promoted. Children are learning about the importance of personal hygiene routines and are encouraged to wash their hands regularly throughout the day; with support from the childminder for younger children. An emergency evacuation procedure is in place and is discussed and practised with the children, helping them to understand the importance of keeping themselves safe. Outdoor play and trips to local parks and places of interest promote children's physical development.

The childminder has a good understanding of how children learn. She provides children with a range of activities and resources which encourage and support their progress in the different areas of learning. Although the childminder has no written plans for the children she knows them extremely well and is able to identify their future needs and provides them with activities and opportunities which helps to extend their knowledge and learning. The childminder spends time talking and listening with the children, asking them open ended questions and encouraging them to extend their skills and understanding. Children play happily with the childminder and the interaction between them is caring and mutually affectionate. The free access to the toys and equipment encourages children's independence. There is a wide range of challenging and interesting toys and activities for children to enjoy but the range of equipment and resources providing positive images for children is limited.

Children's behaviour is good and the childminder supports this by encouraging children to respect each other and take turns. Children are provided with effective learning opportunities in a safe and caring environment.

Annex A: record of inspection judgements

The key inspection judgements and what they mean

Outstanding: this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality

Good: this aspect of the provision is strong

Satisfactory: this aspect of the provision is sound

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

Leadership and management

How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?	Good
How effective is the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement?	Good
How well does the setting work in partnership with parents and others?	Good
How well are children safeguarded?	Good

Quality and standards

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

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
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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 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.