

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	112517
Inspection date	19/11/2008
Inspector	Doreen Forsyth

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 1981. She lives with her husband in a three bedroom family home in Basingstoke, Hampshire. The ground floor of the home is used for childminding. The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. She may care for up to six children under the age of eight, of whom three may be in the early years age group at any one time. Currently, there are seven children on roll, aged between sixteen months and eleven years. They are all cared for on a part-time basis.

The childminder has relevant early years qualifications and is a member of an approved childminding network. She is member of the National Childminding Association. The family has a pet cat.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The childminder is highly effective at making sure children's progress is consistently good and that the needs of all children are routinely met because she recognises the uniqueness of each child. The childminder supports every child ensuring that no child is disadvantaged; the provision for children's physical and emotional well-being is excellent. The childminder uses a variety of appropriate methods to assess her practice ensuring the outcomes for children are well monitored.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

To further improve the high quality early years provision the registered person should consider:

- ensure planning promotes all areas of learning and that the assessment records are used to build on what children already know so that children are continually helped to move onto the next step in their learning.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder is very focused on helping all children to make good progress in their learning and development and on promoting children's welfare. The provision is very well organised. All the policies, procedures and documentation that help to ensure children's safety and well-being and promote the safe and efficient management of the setting are well kept. For example, a suitable complaints procedure is displayed for parents, children's attendance is appropriately recorded and the childminder has carried out extensive risk assessments, including risk assessments for the regular outings that the children undertake. The childminder efficiently safeguards children by ensuring that all adults that have contact with the children are suitable to do so; she is very confident in following the correct child

protection procedures if necessary. The children's welfare and well-being are always her priority.

The childminder is very experienced; she regularly attends appropriate training so that her skills and knowledge are continually updated. She has current first aid training and level 4 qualifications. The childminder is a member of an approved childminding network. She uses the network coordinator's feedback as part of her monitoring and self-evaluation procedures. She has also obtained the parents' and older children's views on the provision she offers, and she acted swiftly on the recommendation set at the last inspection. The childminder improves the outcomes for children by continually reviewing the provision she offers and by recognising her strengths and acting on any areas for development.

The childminder values all children regardless of their background and welcomes them into her home, although she recognises that access within the home is not easy for everyone. She has been proactive in the past in helping parents to obtain the appropriate external help that a child needed. She ensures parents are well informed about their children's achievements and progress. She completes a weekly information sheet for each child, which is given to the parents. She spends time with parents to exchange information and to make sure she knows about each child's individual needs.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children's learning and development are very well promoted. The childminder has created a very stimulating learning environment for all the children and she plans many purposeful play activities that help the children to achieve and progress appropriately towards the early learning goals. The children take part in a range of interesting activities that help them to explore and be active learners. For example, they enjoy reading books and can skilfully retell stories. The childminder observes the children's learning and records their progress well, but she does not routinely use these assessments when planning to build on what the children know, although she knows the children's interests and understands their individual learning requirements very well. The childminder works closely with parents and other agencies, such as the children's nursery school, to promote their individual development.

Children are cared for in an extremely safe and secure environment. The childminder has competently identified and minimised any potential hazards in her home, for example, she uses safety gates to prevent children accessing the stairs. Children begin to learn about keeping themselves safe, for example, they practise with the childminder how they would leave the home in an emergency, and they understand the rules that they must follow when out walking. The home is very child-centred, with attractive displays of posters, photos and children's work. The resources are very well organised so that children can easily access the toys and make choices about what they want to play with.

Children's good health and well-being are very well promoted. The childminder takes all necessary steps to prevent the spread of infection. She has good policies

and procedures in place to ensure she takes appropriate action if children become ill or have an accident. All the policies and procedures are shared with parents and they are given a very comprehensive information pack which includes details of the educational programme. The children have many good opportunities to play outside and to take part in physical activities. The childminder has created a pleasant and attractive enclosed area at the front of the home, where children can explore nature and growing plants and can play freely. They often go for walks and visit local play parks. The childminder ensures children learn good hygiene routines and can independently visit the toilet and wash their hands. Children are offered well balanced and varied meals and snacks and discuss with the childminder the benefits of a healthy lifestyle.

Children's behaviour is exemplary. They are very confident as they are well supported. They learn to share, take turns and respect the needs of others. Children interact very well with each other and with the childminder. She builds a very warm, close relationship with the children, providing plenty of affection and individual attention.

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?	1
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?	1

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?	1
How well are children helped to stay safe?	1
How well are children helped to be healthy?	1
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	1
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	1
How well are children helped develop skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being?	1

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.