

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	110953
Inspection date	10/11/2008
Inspector	Helen Mary Ball
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 lives with her husband and two school-aged sons and adult son in a house in the Andover area of Hampshire. The ground floor of the property is primarily used for childminding and access to the premises is good. Toilet facilities are on the first floor. There is a fully enclosed garden for outdoor play. The family have a pet rabbit

The childminder is registered to provide care for six children under eight years, and is registered on the Early Years Register and on both the voluntary and compulsory parts of the Childcare Register. There are currently five children on roll, three are full time and two attend school. She has good links with local pre-schools and schools.

The childminder has a relevant childcare qualification and is a member of the National Childminding Association.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The childminder's practice is exemplary. She is enthusiastic, imaginative and innovative with children, who are inspired by her approach; they join in all activities with gusto. She is highly competent in assessing children's individual abilities and offers sensitive support to enable all children to achieve and experience the sense of a job well done. As a result, children make impressive progress towards the early learning goals. This is a fun, stimulating environment where children's laughter permeates the house. The childminder continually critically reviews her provision so that she can effectively plan for continuous improvement.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- continue to develop knowledge and understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage so that children's learning is further enhanced.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder is exceptionally well organised. This means that meticulous records are maintained and comprehensive policies and procedures underpin the childminder's highly effective practice. The childminder is very well qualified to care for children and is committed to continuous improvement through self-evaluation, reflecting planning and ongoing training. She evaluates her practice and continually strives to improve the outcomes for children; she demonstrates a clear understanding of inclusive practice and encourages children to be fully involved in all aspects of planning and reviewing activities and resources. As a result, children

are extremely well motivated and they have high levels of self-esteem. Children are very well safeguarded at this setting because the childminder has a clear understanding of the signs and symptoms of child abuse, and has a working knowledge of child protection procedures.

Partnership with parents is outstanding. Through regular questionnaires they show their appreciation of this highly skilled childminder. Parents state that the childminder goes above and beyond her childminding commitment. The childminder provides daily feedback to parents about what their children have been doing, and shares children's developmental and achievement records on a regular basis. In addition, she also maintains ongoing scrapbook/photograph albums about each child, which chart the children's time within the 'childminding family'. Parents state that these albums are a treasure to share as they chart the fun the children have had during their early years in the childminder's care.

Overall, the welfare of the children is promoted extremely well in all aspects and is a high priority to the childminder.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The exceptional organisation of the educational programme means that children make significant progress in their learning and have excellent levels of achievement in relation to their starting points and capabilities.

The high quality planning and organisation ensures that every child is inspired and challenged by the range of learning experiences provided. Based upon thorough and accurate observations, activities are extremely well matched to the full range of children's needs, so that all can succeed to the best of their ability. The childminder very effectively supports children's learning; she provides sensitive support to children and differentiates activities and questioning to enable all to progress according to their individual stages of development. For example, children delight in programming the 'bee bop' robot. The childminder challenges more able children to program the robot to move forward, back, right and left whilst younger children confidently program the robot to move just forward and back. The children are delighted when they each achieve their goal and offer each other 'high fives' when they complete their task. The childminder has a sound understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage and is confident in allowing children to choose the topics; she then extends these to cover several areas of learning. For example, children are enchanted by the story of Goldilocks and the three bears. They show a clear understanding of the sequence of the story. Their knowledge is enhanced by creative practical activities, such as measuring porridge in the sand tray, comparing the sizes of the bears and the accompanying art work, which is then displayed on the kitchen wall. This enhances children's feeling of self-worth.

The children are exceptionally well behaved and show a genuine desire to help each other and the childminder. For example, one child rushes to fetch another child a tissue and all children help to tidy toys away before lunch. Children are very effectively safeguarded within the home and on outings because the childminder carries out regular risk assessments and takes every possible step to ensure

children's safety. For example, the childminder ensures that children's emergency contact numbers are available at each exit point from the home in case of emergency evacuation. Children learn about keeping healthy through daily routines; they are encouraged to be active every day and tell the inspector 'walking helps us to feel better, sleep better and that will help us to grow big and strong'.

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?	1
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	1

Leadership and management

How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?	1
How effective is the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement?	1
How well does the setting work in partnership with parents and others?	1
How well are children safeguarded?	1

Quality and standards

How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?	1
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
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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

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the National Standards.

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.