

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	112154
Inspection date	12/12/2008
Inspector	Judith Reed
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).

Children only attend this setting before and/or after the school day and/or during the school holidays. The judgements in this report reflect the quality of early years provision offered to children during those periods.

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 his wife and two school age children in the Warsash area of Hampshire. Childminding takes place on the ground and first floor of the house and there is a fully enclosed rear garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. He is registered to care for a maximum of six children under eight years at any one time. He is currently minding two children in the early years age group and several children over five before and after school. He works closely with his wife who is also registered as a childminder. The childminder walks to and from local schools to take and collect children. The family has several pets, including a cat, some fish, rabbits and tortoises.

The childminder is part of an approved childminding network and is currently in receipt of funding for nursery education.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

All children are greatly valued and their self-esteem is highly developed as the childminder encourages their independence at all times. The childminder ensures continuous improvement of his practice as he attends many training and conference events. He also reviews ongoing procedures through regular evaluation with the network coordinator as well as through the Ofsted self-evaluation document. Parents are also included in evaluation of the provision and their opinions are respected.

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 written planning of EYFS

The leadership and management of the early years provision

Children benefit from the excellent care and education provided by the highly professional childminder. The constant evaluation of the childminding provision ensures development and ongoing improvement. Regular visits from the network coordinator include an evaluation of the childminding provision and the childminder encourages parents to be part of the overall evaluation of the setting. Parents state their opinions verbally and through letters regarding the childcare provision. They are highly appreciative of the relaxed, family environment provided by the childminder, where good manners are valued and home routines are maintained. The childminder works very closely with parents to build an outstanding record book to inform them about their children's development.

Children are safeguarded as the childminder remains with them at all times. He works closely with his wife who is also a registered childminder. The childminder helps children to learn about keeping themselves safe, especially when out and about. He works closely with outside agencies to support all children.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The childminder provides an excellent environment where children develop skills in all areas of life. He taps into the children's interests to provide rich learning opportunities, making the most of every opportunity to help children explore, investigate and develop language and vocabulary. The flexible planning allows for days when children request alternative activities, such as going to the beach. The childminder has high expectations for all children which are appropriate for their age and ability.

Children organise their own snack time. They take turns on a rota to take the other children's orders and serve the healthy snack. Older children have more responsibility and oversee the younger children. This helps to develop self-esteem, good behaviour, manners and healthy eating. All children sit together around the table and join in the relaxed conversation. They talk about previous experiences, including the recent exciting trip to post letters to Santa Claus, a ferry trip and a shared meal in a local restaurant.

Physical activity is a daily part of the childminder's planning for children. They walk to and from school through the local woods and make regular observations of the nature and wildlife around them. Younger children particularly enjoy visits to the beach, local parks and the neighbourhood. During school holidays, all children enjoy outings to local places of interest, including a fort and a Roman palace. The childminder ensures outings are reasonably priced and activities are interesting to all ages.

Safety is a priority and children learn about keeping themselves safe when crossing roads. All children are encouraged to watch carefully for traffic and cross when clear. They are reminded to keep watching and listening while they cross. The childminder also encourages older children to think about fire safety and evacuation. They plan, discuss and practise evacuation from the premises and this helps them to appreciate the importance of keeping each other safe at all times.

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

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.