

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY362230
Inspection date	01/12/2008
Inspector	Catherine Greenwood
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 2007. She lives with her three children aged 17, 15, and seven years old in Ash, near Aldershot in Surrey. The ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and one of the bedrooms on the first floor for sleeping purposes only. Outside play is provided by daily visits to parks and playing fields. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of three children under eight years at any one time (Early Years Register and compulsory Childcare Register). There is one child aged 20 months within the Early Years Foundation Stage on roll. Local parks, shops and schools are within easy walking distance. The family has one dog.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Children's developmental progress is restricted due to the childminder's poor knowledge of the early learning goals within the Early Years Foundation Stage, and the limited range of accessible play equipment. Weaknesses of the provision are not accurately identified through regular self assessment. Children are happy and settled, due to the close and caring relationships they form with the childminder and her commitment to including them in her family life.

Overall, the early years provision requires significant improvement. The registered person is given a Notice to Improve that sets out actions to be carried out.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

To comply with the requirements of the EYFS the registered person must take the following action by the specified date:

- undertake sensitive observational assessment in order to plan to meet young children's individual needs, and plan and provide experiences which are appropriate to each child's stage of development as they progress towards the early learning goals (Organisation) 01/01/2009
- conduct a risk assessment, review it regularly, and take all reasonable steps to ensure that hazards to children, such as the extension within the premises are kept to a minimum (Suitable premises, environment and equipment - also applies to the compulsory part of the Childcare Register) 02/12/2008
- organise play equipment in a way that meets the needs of children (Suitable premises, environment and equipment - also applies to the compulsory part of the Childcare Register) 02/12/2008

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder is dedicated to meeting children's individual needs, but is insufficiently focused on raising their achievement and personal development in some areas of learning. In addition, she does not have a secure knowledge of current statutory requirements and guidance to use to promote children's welfare, safety and learning. Not all of the actions made at the last inspection have been tackled effectively to improve outcomes for children. Consequently, some areas of the premises remain a risk to children's safety, and the range of play equipment and organisation of resources provide children with insufficient challenge and stimulation. Parents are made welcome within the childminder's home and are kept well informed about daily events, activities and their children's achievements. Record keeping systems include most information, although this does not include the actual times of children's attendance or written parental consent for children to travel in the childminder's car.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children are unlikely to reach their full potential due to poor observation and planning of activities in relation to the Early Years Foundation Stage guidance. Although the childminder can say how children have made progress in some areas, she has not made a full developmental assessment, or identified the next step for their individual learning.

The range of play equipment and other resources to support children's learning are extremely poor. Consequently, they show little interest in using the toys. The poor organisation and lack of variety mean children do not learn to make independent choices within their play, or have good opportunities to develop their senses. The childminder has obtained some books and dolls that reflect positive images, although these are not made accessible at all times. This restricts the opportunities for children to develop a positive attitude to differences.

Children walk to and from the local school and have occasional opportunities to play in the local park, or visit an activity centre which has climbing equipment. The childminder does not use her garden for childminding purposes, although during good weather children have opportunities to play outside when visiting the childminder's relatives. However, the childminder does not give top priority to providing children with daily outdoor play experiences, which hinders the development of their gross motor skills.

Children are very well behaved because they are kept occupied, and are set clear boundaries. They develop good social skills during daily outings to the childminder's friends, who have children of a similar age. They learn to be independent, for example, through feeding themselves and doing up the Velcro on their shoes. The childminder encourages children to try new experiences, although this has not proved successful with most creative activities. This is due to insufficient time dedicated to this area of development, and the evaluation of what equipment might be needed to make the activity more successful. For example, art

and craft activities are currently set up on the tray of a high chair, which means that children do not have the freedom to access these resources independently, or sufficient space to use them freely and effectively.

The childminder says young children love looking at books. She encourages this interest by reading favourite stories such as 'Danny and the Bear', and, as a result, children are beginning to recognise and point to a few familiar words. Children have lots of one to one attention and form close relationships with the childminder. They take part in routine events such as visits to the shops. The childminder follows children's routines and ensures their individual needs are well met.

Children are supervised at all times, although the childminder has not notified Ofsted of changes to household members over the age of sixteen years. A safety gate is used to prevent children having access to the stairs, the indoor space is well maintained, and all fire equipment is in working order. However, the childminder has not completed a risk assessment of the premises, and has not taken action to reduce the hazards identified at the last inspection, such as the unfinished extension. Although children are taught not to go into this area, it continues to be a risk to their safety.

Children's individual dietary needs are well known and parents are given daily information about the food they eat, which includes fresh fruit and vegetables. The childminder holds a current first aid certificate and informs parents of any occasional accidents, although not all records have been signed. Children's welfare is protected because the childminder has a knowledge of the action to take if she is concerned about a child. However, there is no written safeguarding policy or complaints procedure in place.

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?	4
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	3
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	4

Leadership and management

How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?	4
How effective is the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement?	4
How well does the setting work in partnership with parents and others?	3
How well are children safeguarded?	4

Quality and standards

How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?	4
How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?	4
How well are children helped to stay safe?	4
How well are children helped to be healthy?	3
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	4
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	3
How well are children helped develop skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being?	4

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:

Not Met (with actions)

The registered provider does not meet the requirements of the compulsory and or voluntary part/s of the Childcare Register.

To comply with the requirements of the compulsory part of the Childcare Register, the registered person must take the following action/s by the specified date:

- devise a written statement of procedures to be followed in relation to complaints which relate to the requirements of the Childcare Register and which a parent makes in writing or by email (Procedures for dealing with complaints) 01/01/2009
- keep and implement a written statement of procedures to be followed for the protection of children, intended to safeguard the children being cared for from abuse or neglect (Arrangements for safeguarding children) 01/01/2009
- make copies of the written statements of safeguarding procedures and complaints procedures available to parents (Providing information to parents). 01/01/2009

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.