

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY360313
Inspection date	28/10/2008
Inspector	Teresa Colburn / Bridget Richardson
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 husband and school age child in Woodingdean, near Brighton. The property is close to local schools and amenities. The majority of the house is used for childminding, with toilet facilities and sleep facilities located on the first floor. Access to the property is via a few steps. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for four children at any one time and is currently minding four children all of whom attend on a part time basis. The childminder is registered on the Early Years register and compulsory part of the Childcare Register. The childminder is not registered to provide overnight care.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Exceptional knowledge of each child's individual needs ensures that the childminder promotes all aspects of the children's welfare and learning with success. The childminder plans an excellent range of learning experiences based on the children's interests and individual needs. Partnership with parents and other agencies contributes significantly, ensuring the needs of all the children are fully met. This means all children make purposeful progress, given their age, ability and starting points. A comprehensive and informative self-evaluation ensures the childminder fully understands her strengths and weaknesses, prompting accurate future developments in her practice and service.

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 the safety of the outside play area.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder strives for improvement to provide high quality care and education. This is monitored through an extensive informative self-evaluation form which includes steps taken to promote improvement and development. She has attended substantial training both before and after registration to further enhance her own knowledge, skills and understanding.

Parents are provided with outstanding information about the service provided. Parents are requested to complete informative information booklets about their child prior to starting, for example, what the child can do, their likes and dislikes and family set up. This ensures the childminder is fully aware of the child's starting point and if necessary can adapt her practice to further aid the settling-in process. Regular informal observations are conducted on all children to assess their

achievements and progress whilst in her care. Observations are used to inform her stimulating environment and areas of development planning. Excellent plans and guidance are displayed for parents' reference. The childminder has an extensive knowledge of each child, she knows them very well, and has developed a versatile Early Years Foundation Stage file for each child. This includes observations and photographs of their play, assessments to build on what the children already know and can do and plans to further develop their learning.

Exceptional written risk assessments aid the childminder in identifying aspects of potential risks within the environment. The childminder's practice confirms her strong ability to safeguard children in her care. Children thoroughly enjoy their time in her care, thriving in the ability to freely access exciting resources, whilst playing and learning in a caring and stimulating atmosphere.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children have space to move freely, and great emphasis is given to making sure the environment is welcoming for children, to aid their learning and development. The rooms are expertly set out into defined spaces, such as a creative/messy area, a play area and an area designated for accessing books. Children independently access equipment and move from one area to another with great ease.

Children are very happy, settled and relaxed in the childminder's company. They are motivated, eager and actively participate in and enjoy the activities and experiences offered to them. Children are extremely confident and self assured because of the excellent support and encouragement they receive from the childminder. For example, when they are involved in reading stories, they routinely discuss the author and title of the book. Throughout the fun story session, children enjoy naming the animals and making relevant animal sounds. Children freely recall their recent outing to the park to feed the ducks and watch the squirrels. They show enormous pride and excitement whilst looking at and sharing their previous 'learning scrapbooks' with each other, happily recalling all the fun they had participating in the range of activities, experiences and outings.

Children are developing an active understanding of dangers and how to stay safe through informal discussions about 'road safety' and 'safety', whilst travelling in the car, walking and on outings.

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?	2
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

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 registration.

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.