

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY370014
Inspection date	14/10/2008
Inspector	Janet Marie Thouless
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 2008. She lives with her family in Merstham, Surrey. She uses the whole house for childminding, with toilet and sleeping facilities on the first floor. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The family has a dog.

The childminder works with her mother, who is also a registered childminder, and together they may care for a maximum of six children. They are currently caring for three children under eight years, who attend throughout the week. Registration includes both the Early Years Register and both the Compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. The childminders have joint responsibility for the childminding practice. They occasionally work with an assistant. The childminder holds an early year's childcare qualification.

The childminder attends local toddler groups and regularly takes children to the library and parks.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The childminder offers a fully inclusive environment where all children's individual needs are respected and provided for. All aspects of children's learning and development are promoted and children make good progress. The childminder works in partnership with parents to ensure information is shared with regards to children's development and care needs. She has a strong commitment towards on-going training and uses self-evaluation effectively to identify areas for development and recognise the strengths of her provision.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

To further improve the early years provision the registered person should:

- update the procedure to be followed in the event of a parent failing to collect a child at the appointed time.
- update the complaints procedure to include how any concern raised will be investigated.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder is well organised and professional in her childminding service. She maintains clear records and has a comprehensive range of written policies and procedures to support the care and welfare needs of children. However, the complaints policy and failure to collect a child procedure requires updating. The childminder's patient and thoughtful approach means that children have very good opportunities to make choices in their play in safe and secure surroundings. Children's safety and welfare is of paramount importance. The childminder

completes comprehensive risk assessments and is vigilant in protecting children from hazards both inside and outside the home. For example, safety gates have been fitted so children are protected from the stairs, soft play resources are placed across the hearth to keep children safe and baby alarms are used to monitor sleeping babies.

There are good partnerships in place with parents. Daily diaries are completed on each child to inform parents of their children's daily care and play routines. The childminder discuss children's development with parents on a regular basis and systems are in place to share the assessment procedures and observations with them. This enables parents to share knowledge of their children's development with the childminder.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The childminder provides a welcoming and relaxed home environment for children. As a result, children sustain healthy emotional attachments through warm trusting relationships with the childminder and enjoy the time they spend in her care. The childminder knows the children well and is aware of their likes, dislikes and personal preferences. The childminder stays close to children at all times, so she can support them in their play and learning. For example, they receive support when looking at books and stacking beakers. She is currently developing children's assessments to further develop and identify individual children's learning needs.

A broad range of resources are on offer that allow young children to explore and investigate. They make choices in their play and enjoy playing with resources that fit together or pull apart, build up and fall down. Children confidently press buttons on resources, such as small world play house and garden that react with sounds. They respond instantly by pointing when the childminder asks them to identify the ladybirds in the story book and clap their hands and smile at their achievements. The childminder offers lots of cuddles, smiles and praise which children positively respond to. This helps children enjoy their learning and gives them the confidence to try different things. The childminder plans the daily routine extremely well, offering children a good balance of both child-initiated play and adult-led activities, encouraging children to be busy, active learners.

There is good provision in place to safeguard children. Children's health and well-being is promoted and steps are taken to protect children against infection and prevent the spread of illness. For example, daily routines include regular hand washing with liquid soap and wet wipes and the brushing of teeth after each meal. Good provision is available for children to play outside and enjoy active, physical play and fresh air. Children benefit from playing outside in the garden and enjoy local walks and bus rides to places of interest such as soft play centres.

Children develop good social skills as the childminder encourages positive behaviour and promotes strong relationships with one another. For example, they are encouraged to share and take turns and happily help each other tidy away toys and resources. Children are well behaved because the childminder provides a good role

model. Her positive and caring approach and calm nature, means that children are quick to co-operate and understand what is expected.

Annex A: record of inspection judgements

The key inspection judgements and what they mean

Outstanding: this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality

Good: this aspect of the provision is strong

Satisfactory: this aspect of the provision is sound

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

Leadership and management

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

Quality and standards

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

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 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.