

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY371450
Inspection date	19/09/2008
Inspector	Catherine Hill

Type of setting	Childminder
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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 has been registered since 2008. She lives with her husband and three children, aged 15, 12 and seven years, in a four bedroom house in Church Crookham, Fleet, Hampshire. The whole of the house can be used for childminding and there is a large, enclosed garden for outdoor play. The childminder is registered to provide care for a maximum of five children at any one time. She is registered on the Early Years Register and on the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. She is currently minding three children under five years at various times during the week. The family have two dogs, three cats and hamsters as pets. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The childminder's policies and procedures are effective and inclusive. She works closely with parents to ensure children's individual needs are known and ensures children have equal access to age appropriate activities and resources. Good use is made of the home environment to enable children to develop as confident, independent learners. Children are extremely happy within her care and are making good progress in their learning and development. The childminder has identified areas for improvement to her practice and most relevant documentation is in place to support her practice, although there is a weakness with regard to medication documentation.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- further develop knowledge of the Early Years Foundation Stage
- further develop self-evaluation systems to provide evidence of targets for improvement

To fully meet the specific requirements of the EYFS, the registered person must:

- obtain written permission from parents before administering medication to children

03/10/2008

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder effectively organises her practice to ensure children play and learn within a secure, loving, family environment. She has a good understanding of the learning areas within the early years curriculum and how best to support children's development, although is aware that she needs to further develop her knowledge of the new Early Years Foundation Stage. Children have good play space and

access to activities and resources which promote learning in all areas, with activities both indoors and out. For example, children go for walks with the childminder and play at home with musical instruments. The childminder is vigilant to children's individual needs and has a very positive attitude to ensuring all children are included in play, with age appropriate resources and experiences provided to further develop and challenge their skills and thinking. Children benefit from the good working partnership established between the childminder and their parents as it ensures their needs are well known to both. The childminder shares information with parents on a daily basis both verbally and in writing in a daily diary, which records significant observations about the child's day.

Children's welfare is well safeguarded by the childminder who has a detailed policy to support her practice. She has also attended specific training regarding child protection. A self-evaluation form has been completed and the childminder has questionnaires to use to gain feedback from parents about her service, although these have not yet been shared with parents. She has identified areas for improvement to her practice, such as, implementing a written curriculum to provide more structure to the minded day. A range of documentation is in place to support the childminder's practice and all written policies are shared with parents. The childminder has most written consents in place, for example for emergency treatment or advice, but has administered a dose of non-prescription medication given to her by parents, based on verbal consent only which is a breach of regulation. Details of medication administered have been recorded, as have details of children's daily attendance times.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children have daily opportunities for exercise to enable them to develop healthy bodies. They are taken out regularly by the childminder, for example for walks in the fresh air, and have ample space to move freely indoors. The childminder is vigilant to individual children's developmental stages and provides appropriate resources to help them progress, such as an upright wheeled activity centre which young children use for support as they practise their walking. They play within a clean home environment where they are taught to practise appropriate hand washing procedures. Good hygiene procedures ensures the family pets do not pose a health risk to children. Children are totally at ease with the childminder and can play safely as she has identified and minimized hazards within the home. She ensures hot drinks are not accessible to children and develops children's awareness of safety through discussion. The childminder acts as a positive role model with regard to manners and children have excellent relationships with her. Their emotional well-being is very effectively supported with cuddles and gentle conversation. Children readily turn to the childminder for support showing they feel safe within her care.

The childminder has a sound awareness of children's current abilities and provides them with good opportunities to reinforce and consolidate their skills. Children learn through play and the childminder is flexible with her day to ensure it meets the needs of minded children. Children learn about numbers as the childminder counts to two before singing a song to them. They develop in independence as the

childminder encourages them to hold their cup when they drink. They are able to self select from a range of easily accessible, age appropriate toys and enjoy the freedom to explore their environment. They are proud of their achievements and grin broadly as they show off their walking skills. They show an understanding of cause and effect as they press buttons on toys to activate sounds.

The childminder offers continual praise and encouragement to children which boosts their self-esteem. They are confident and enjoy nestling next to the childminder to share books. They develop their vocabulary as the childminder points out and names objects in pictures. Children have great fun as the childminder playfully tickles them and they giggle and laugh together. The childminder understands the importance of working in partnership with others in the best interests of the child. She is proactive in obtaining and sharing information so she can provide learning opportunities to complement those being provided elsewhere.

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.	Satisfactory

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?	Satisfactory
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?	Satisfactory
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.