

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY368731
Inspection date	09/10/2008
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).

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 was registered in 2008. She lives with her husband and their two children aged four years and five years, in a mid-terrace house in Aldershot, Hampshire. The property is close to local schools and amenities and there is a park nearby. The ground floor of the house is used for childminding, with toilet and sleeping facilities available on the first floor. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of three children under eight years at any one time (Early Years Register, Compulsory and Voluntary parts of the Childcare Register). She is currently minding two children aged twenty two months and eleven months, both of whom are within the Early Years Foundation Stage. The childminder walks or drives to local schools and nurseries to take and collect children, and take children to local parks, the library and a local carer and toddler group.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Children's welfare is fully promoted and all policies and procedures are used effectively in practice. The childminder's excellent observational skills enable her to have a real insight into how children are making progress, as well as her ability to communicate in children's first language, such as French. Consequently all children are fully included. The childminder has a very good knowledge of children's individual needs and abilities, and ensures all necessary information is shared with parents. Plans for the future are well targeted to bring about further improvement to the provision and outcomes for children, although a written self evaluation has not yet been completed.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- make the fire blanket easily accessible in the kitchen
- improve the range of resources that help babies develop their senses and make these easily accessible at all times

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder's patient and thoughtful approach means that children have very good opportunities to choose what they do. She makes the most of spontaneous opportunities, and gives children time to enjoy their play. She gives top priority to communicating with children in their own language, and joining in their play. The good information the childminder shares with parents, enables her to talk with children about their own lives, and capture their interest. She has attended additional training on the Early Years Foundation Stage and uses this knowledge to record children's learning and development. The childminder has a very good knowledge of children's individual abilities and what they are good at, for example,

she says younger children like to explore and experiment. This is evident as they laugh with enjoyment whilst repeatedly rolling a ball down the steps in the childminder's hallway. Outstanding risk assessments are used to ensure children's safety both indoors and on outings, although the fire blanket has not yet been fixed to the wall. Children's welfare is fully safeguarded because the childminder has a good knowledge and understanding of child protection. All recommendations made at registration have been met.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children are very happy, settled and secure. They show great enthusiasm and independence within their play and make good progress towards the early learning goals. The childminder stays near to the children at all times, so she can help them and ask questions that extends their learning. For example, they count the number of legs on a sponge crab and choose the colour of paint to use for a 'printing' activity. The childminders very encouraging approach, and the praise she gives to children means they enjoy creative activities. Babies are adept at using musical response toys. However, natural and everyday resources are not made easily accessible at all times to help promote this area of children's development. Children show great interest in using the books which reflect positive images of differences, some of which are written in French. The childminder helps children to recognise words in their first language by reading the same stories on a regular basis, and improve their English by singing nursery rhymes. Children are well behaved because the childminder provides a good role model. Her positive and caring approach and good communication, means that children are quick to co-operate and understand what is expected. Children have a good range of experiences. The childminder provides resources such as push along toys that enable younger children to make good progress with learning to walk. They benefit from going on regular visits to toddler groups, where they make friends and learn to share, and to a local park with a playground. Children develop good physical skills as they learn to climb, balance and jump on large equipment and a trampoline during weekly visits to a toddler gym. They learn about how things grow and the importance of healthy eating as they help to collect potatoes, and pick raspberries on the childminder's allotment. The childminder provides small gardening tools so that children can help with the digging. The childminder is very pro-active in making sure all the children are given equal attention and are fully included. For example, she sits younger children on her lap and makes sure they take turns with sharing resources such as the pretend telephone. The childminder uses her observations of activities that children like, as well as what they need to do next, to plan for the week ahead. However, this is used flexibly according to the choices that children make. The childminder makes good use of the internet for new ideas and craft activities. She works closely with parents to obtain as much information about children's development before they start, and uses a daily diary to record general information and observations. The childminder uses observations to link to the early learning goals and plan activities that stretch children and help them develop further. During the afternoons the childminder divides the sitting room using a wooden play pen, which converts into a long safety gate. This means that small resources are not a hazard to babies, and the childminder's older children can use more challenging play resources after school.

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.