

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY364593
Inspection date	15/10/2008
Inspector	Jacqui Lloyd
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 three children aged 10, 11 and 18 years in Leatherhead, Surrey. All areas of the ground floor, including the play room are used for childminding. There is a fully secure garden available for outside play. The childminder walks to the local school to take and collect children, she goes to the park, library and toddler group.

The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and on the compulsory part of the Childcare Register. She is registered to care for six children at any one time and currently has four children on roll.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The childminder provides an exceptionally welcoming and inclusive environment which is totally child centred. She has an organised and professional approach to childminding and makes good use of written records and policies to support her practice. Children enjoy an interesting and fun range of play and learning opportunities, although formats for planning and assessing their needs are limited.

The childminder recognises and understands the individual needs of each of the children and works very closely with parents to ensure the children's welfare is promoted and their needs are fully met. Since registration, the childminder has made excellent progress and implemented many successful strategies and procedures to ensure the ongoing improvement of her service.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- continue to develop methods for planning and assessing the needs of the children in relation to their future learning and development needs

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder has a professional and highly organised approach. She maintains all the relevant records and documents and these are used effectively to support the safe and efficient management of her minding service.

The childminder assesses her own provision and makes good use of self evaluation to reflect on her practice. She is able to recognise her own strengths and identify areas that she wishes to develop further. She has high aspirations for herself and is clearly committed to the ongoing improvement of her provision and demonstrates the capacity to achieve this.

The childminder has a very positive and committed approach towards inclusion and

recognises that all children have specific and individual needs. She is sensitive to these individual needs and supports children and their parents extremely well, enabling children to settle quickly and become happy and confident learners.

Children benefit from the strong and effective partnerships that the childminder develops with parents. A daily diary provides them with a good overview of their care routines and examples of the types of activities and learning experiences the children have enjoyed. Effective links with other providers and professionals ensure that appropriate information is shared to support children's individual needs.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children benefit from extremely close and secure relationships with the childminder and thoroughly enjoy their time with her. She has created a very welcoming and interesting environment for the children and extended this to the excellent provision for outdoor play and learning in the covered outdoor area. This area can be freely accessed by the children in all weathers throughout the year, enabling them to thoroughly enjoy fresh air, exercise and a broad range of activities at all times. There is also a dedicated playroom that contains a wide and interesting range of toys and play materials, all of which are well organised and stored in low level units, enabling children to see what is available and choose independently what to play with. The areas used by the children are totally child centred and very well organised to meet the needs of the individual children.

The childminder fully understands risk and assesses it carefully to ensure children are kept safe and protected from harm. She undertakes detailed and comprehensive written risk assessments of outings and shares these with parents. This helps to inform parents about planned activities and reassures them that she has fully considered the children's welfare.

She is very attentive to the individual needs of the children and responds extremely positively to them. Children are curious and inquisitive and she supports them very well by talking to them, questioning them and extending their learning. Children enjoy an excellent range of play and learning opportunities that enable them to make rapid progress towards the early learning goals.

Photographic evidence shows that children have recently enjoyed activities, such as cooking, gardening and role play using a range of costumes and dressing up clothes. The childminder is very knowledgeable about the children's individual learning and development needs. However, she has not yet devised methods for consistently using this information along with observations of the children to plan for their future learning.

Children are made to feel very welcome and valued as individuals. Each of the children have a named basket in the hallway where they can place their personal belongings on arrival and any items, such as artwork that they may wish to take home with them. This also helps to reinforce the links with home.

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?	Outstanding
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?	Outstanding
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

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.