

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY292941
Inspection date	24/02/2009
Inspector	Patricia Mary Champion
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 2004. She lives with her husband, teenage children and younger children aged seven and 10 years. They live in a house in a residential area within walking distance of schools and shops in Leigh-on-Sea. All areas of the childminder's house are used for childminding, except for the rooms in the loft area. Access is via a small step to the front door. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time and is currently minding two children in the early years age group. The childminder also offers care to children aged over five years to 11 years. This provision is registered by Ofsted on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register.

The childminder attends the local carer and toddler group on a regular basis and takes children to the local parks and library. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is good. Children are cared for effectively within the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) because the childminder's practice is inclusive and she takes account of children's individual needs and routines when planning activities. Some methods are used to assess and observe children's progress. The childminder has devised clearly written policies and procedures and ensures that important information is shared with parents. Risk assessments ensure that children remain safe in the house and on outings. The childminder reflects on her practice and ensures that any improvements made are well-chosen and carefully planned.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- ensure that the assessment records are based on observations of what children are doing in their day-to-day activities and are used to plan the next steps in a child's developmental progress.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

Children benefit from the care of an enthusiastic childminder. She has attended all the necessary training, continually reviews the care she provides and researches ideas for imaginative activities. Play space and resources are arranged effectively to meet the children's needs and allow them to play, eat and rest in comfort. The childminder ensures that children do not have access to potential hazards,

particularly while her family home is being renovated. All documentation is well organised with a high regard for confidentiality. The childminder has developed written policies and procedures that underpin all aspects of her practice. This ensures the efficient and safe management of the provision.

Children are safeguarded because the childminder has a sound understanding of her child protection responsibilities. She has a written child protection policy and the child protection handbook from the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) is readily accessible.

The childminder works closely with parents to understand children's needs and ensure appropriate links with home. Parents are given copies of the policies and clear contracts are provided that detail the business arrangements. Comprehensive consent agreements ensure that the childminder's day-to-day practice reflects parents' wishes. Parents are kept fully informed of their children's experiences through verbal feedback and observations supported by photographs of children enjoying the activities.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children are very happy and have developed a warm relationship with the childminder. She makes them feel at ease and interaction is lively and friendly as she joins in their play. Plenty of cuddles are offered so that young children feel secure. The childminder shares the fun of discovering language with young children through reading stories, which encourages them to gain confidence when practising new words. For example, they proudly point out the colours they know and animals they recognise. Systems for assessing and planning for the youngest children's learning and development are in an early stage of development; therefore some aspects of learning may not be fully addressed to provide further challenge for babies and toddlers.

There is an impressive playroom that allows children to access a wide range of safe and suitable play materials and take part in activities linked to all areas of learning. Toys are regularly rotated to keep children interested in their play and items are checked for cleanliness and damage. Children learn about the wider world as they look at books that show positive images of diversity. The childminder ensures that her practice is inclusive and that all children can participate fully in the activities.

Children's welfare and safety is given a high priority. The childminder tests her fire alarms and has devised and practised procedures so that children can swiftly evacuate the premises in an emergency. She ensures that she is knowledgeable about any allergies or special dietary requirements and there are established hygienic routines that maintain cleanliness in her home. Children have opportunities for exercise and fresh air each day, which contributes to a healthy lifestyle. Suitable activities give young children the opportunity to develop the skills they need for the future such as mark-making with crayons, learning how to operate musical toys and listening attentively to story books. Outings to venues

such as Hadleigh Castle and Chalkwell Park enhances children's learning and knowledge and understanding of the world.

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?	2
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	2
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	2

Leadership and management

How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?	2
How effective is the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement?	2
How well does the setting work in partnership with parents and others?	2
How well are children safeguarded?	2

Quality and standards

How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?	2
How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?	2
How well are children helped to stay safe?	2
How well are children helped to be healthy?	2
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	2
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	2
How well are children helped develop skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being?	2

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
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The provider confirms that the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register are:	Met
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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 the last inspection.

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.