

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY368179
Inspection date	18/06/2009
Inspector	Freeda Wildon
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 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 husband and young family in a residential area of Ramsgate, Kent. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and children use the bathroom on the first floor. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play which is accessed via steps.

The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. She is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time, of these no more than three may be in the early years age group. The childminder is currently minding two children in the early years age range and one child over five years. She walks to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local toddler group. The family has a dog.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is good. The childminder has a sound knowledge and understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). She uses the framework effectively to plan a stimulating range of activities covering all areas of learning based on children's individual learning needs. Through the use of self-evaluation she is beginning to reflect on her practice. The childminder shows commitment to future improvement and a willingness to attend ongoing training to develop her knowledge and skills. Formal risk assessments and daily visual checks ensure children play in a safe environment. The childminder is mindful of parents' working commitments and has created a flexible service to give them 'peace of mind'.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- prepare a log to record any future complaints and share with parents

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

- ensure written permission is obtained for each and every medicine before any medication is given and keep a record (Safeguarding and welfare) (also applies to both parts of the childcare Register)

26/06/2009

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder has created a friendly environment for children. Children and parents are welcomed warmly and children are pleased to see the childminder. Her home is clean, safe and well maintained. She makes good use of the space allowing children to feel comfortable and at home. Good hygiene practices are in place to prevent cross contamination. Children learn about the spread of infection through hand washing at appropriate times. The childminder's sound knowledge of the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures enables her to take appropriate action should she have concerns about child protection issues. Most of the required documentation is in place. Although the childminder is requested by parents in the daily diary to give medication to children she does not obtain prior written consent stating the medication and dosage. In addition, she does not keep a record of medicines given. This is a breach of regulation. The childminder has an up-to-date first aid certificate and equipment. This allows her to take appropriate action if a child has a minor injury. She has obtained prior written consent from parents to seek emergency advice or treatment.

Partnership between parents and the childminder is good. The childminder has a range of policies and procedures to share with parents and guide her practice. She adapts her service to accommodate changes in parents' working patterns. Parents speak highly of the childminder stating how much they appreciate the loving care she provides for their children and to them she is the best childminder. They are well informed about the activities and the children's daily routine through a daily diary and daily informal discussions. A complaints procedure and a poster ensure that parents know how to make a complaint. Although the childminder has not had any complaints, she has not yet prepared a log to record any future complaints to share with parents. Children's development records are shared with parents and they are encouraged to contribute to their children's learning.

The childminder is committed to providing a professional childminding service. This is her first inspection since registration. She has attended training in the EYFS and has embarked on a diploma in home based childcare. This demonstrates her commitment towards consistent improvement. The childminder has recently started using the Ofsted on-line self-evaluation to help identify areas for future improvement. For example, she would like to find new ways to provide learning opportunities for children.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The childminder has a sound knowledge of the Practice Guidance for the Early Years Foundation Stage. The planning of the activities is based on individual children's needs and interests to ensure all children make good progress and their development records show that they are doing so. When children first start at the setting the childminder observes the children at play and plans effectively for their next steps. Children experience a good range of activities inside and outside the home which support their all round development. The childminder takes children's interests into account when planning activities. They are happy in the childminder's

care who is enthusiastic and interacts well with the children in a fun and engaging manner. As a result, they behave extremely well; they are enthusiastic and well motivated. Children benefit from consistent praise and encouragement from the childminder. They are confident about making decisions and freely choosing activities they wish to play with. For example, pretending to go shopping to buy bananas for themselves and their family, acting out real life scenarios by paying for the purchases with a debit card.

Children are developing a love of books and spend time cuddling up to the childminder to listen to their favourite stories such as 'Fireman Sam'. Children have access to a good range of books the childminder provides at home; she borrows books from the library so that there is a variety for the children. Children develop good counting skills through a variety of activities and through every day routines such as counting the stairs as they go upstairs. The childminder encourages simple calculations in role play and as they sing songs such as 'one, two, three, four, five, once I caught a fish alive'. Children use programmable toys and have access to a computer. These skills are fostered well and contribute to their future economical well-being.

A range of books and dolls give children a balanced view of society, however, these do not include disabilities. The childminder has identified this in her self-evaluation as an area for future improvement. Children's independence is fostered because the childminder gives the children responsibilities. For example, tidying away and getting dressed for outings. They regularly visit the local community to play in the park, at play centres and meet friends at local social groups. This provides them with opportunities to use apparatus to develop their large muscle skills and dexterity. When children are away from the setting they learn about road safety through the childminder modelling safety practice, for example, crossing the road safely. Regular practise of fire drills ensures that all children know how to leave the premises safely in an emergency. They learn about healthy eating through 'five a day' poster and discussions. In addition the childminder provides a healthy balanced evening meal for the children.

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?	1

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:

Not Met (with actions)

The provider confirms that the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register are:

Not Met (with actions)

The registered provider does not meet the requirements of the compulsory and or voluntary part/s of the Childcare Register.

To comply with the requirements of the compulsory part of the Childcare Register, the registered person must take the following action/s by the specified date:

- take action as specified in the early years section of this report in relation to safeguarding and welfare 26/06/2009

To comply with the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register, the registered person must take the following action/s by the specified date:

- take action as specified in the early years section of this report in relation to safeguarding and welfare 26/06/2009