

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY369620
Inspection date	19/02/2009
Inspector	Lindsay Ann Farenden

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 was registered in 2008. She lives with her husband and two children aged 10 and seven years in West Ewell, Epsom, Surrey. The whole of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is access to the toilet on the ground floor. Children's main play area is the whole of the ground floor and bedrooms are used for sleeping purposes. The childminder is registered to provide care for five children under eight years. There are currently four children on roll in the early years age group. The childminder is registered on the following registers: the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. The childminder occasionally works with an assistant.

The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children and takes children to the local park and library.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The overall effectiveness is good. The childminder dedicates her time around the children when they are present and shows a clear understanding of supporting them in their play and learning. The childminder demonstrates a commitment to attend training courses in order to continually improve the quality of her childminding provision. All children are valued for their uniqueness and individuality. There is plenty of space in which children can relax, concentrate on activities and develop their own experiences through play.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- continue to develop knowledge of the observation and assessment processes
- further extend the range of play resources and books which promote and value diversity and differences

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The good organisation of the day ensures children have a fun and stimulating time in the childminder's care. She has started to analyse her observations of planned group activities to ascertain children's skills and areas in which they need further support. The childminder knows each child very well and is in the process of developing personalised written plans to help each child in their next steps of learning and development. The childminder has established good links with the children's school in order to continue to enhance their learning in her provision.

The childminder has completed the self-evaluation document and used it effectively to evaluate her practice and identify aspects for improvement. She very much is keen to obtain a Level 3 diploma in childcare and develop her knowledge about

the Early Years Foundation Stage.

The childminder keeps parents very well informed about their child's time with her through daily discussions. Photographs are shared with parents showing them activities their child has enjoyed and demonstrating younger children's significant areas of development. They are invited to view at any time information she keeps on their child and to discuss their progress. The childminder's certificate, insurance and Ofsted details are clearly displayed on the parents' notice board for them to view. Letters from parents show they are pleased with the service the childminder provides for their children.

The childminder has planned future activities to help children learn about the wider world. The childminder is aware that some children have learning difficulties and/or disabilities and has a positive attitude to working with parents and other agencies involved with the child to enable her to give them the best possible care and support.

Children are cared for in a clean, safe and secure home environment. To ensure children's safety the childminder has carried out a thorough risk assessment of her home to ensure any hazards are removed or made safe. Although risk assessments for outings are not written the childminder demonstrated how she gives high priority to children's safety on outings. To help protect children in the event of an emergency the childminder has a clear fire evacuation procedure which is practised with them. A fire blanket is in place in the kitchen and the smoke alarms are in working order. Children are taught to keep themselves safe through discussions about road safety and stranger danger. Also through simple explanations, such why they need to put toys away carefully so they do not accidentally hurt another child.

Children's welfare is well safeguarded because the childminder has a secure knowledge of the signs of abuse and the procedures to follow if she has concerns about a child. Overall the childminder has effective policies in place to ensure children's safety and welfare of which parents are given copies. All records are well maintained and stored in a confidential manner for the safe and efficient management of the setting to meet the needs of all the children.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children enjoy the time with they spend with the childminder and are very relaxed and settled in her care. They make good progress in their learning because they enjoy a wide range of exciting activities and outings which cover all areas of learning. Children access a wide range of very good quality play resources and toys, which are stored in low level cupboards. This allows children to make informed choices about what they want to play with and enables them to become active learners. They play well together as they use their imaginations well, taking on adult roles, such laying the table and pretending to cook and serve meals. Children's fine motor skills are developed through frequently using small equipment, such as construction materials, scissors, glue sticks and paint brushes. Children relish making their own pictures using stickers, paper shapes, glue sticks

and various pens and proudly show their creations to the childminder. The positive praise they receive from her encourages them to take pride in their achievements and continue doing the activity. The childminder's good use of questions challenges children to recognise different shapes and develop their counting skills.

Children benefit greatly from a range of activities outside of the home, for example, feeding the ducks, visiting places of historic interest, such as Hampton Court Palace and going to library to look out for books relating to the topics they are doing. Children access a small range of toys and books which reflect the diversity of society. Children have a wide range of opportunities to take part in physical activities that contribute to a healthy lifestyle, for example, walking, playing on apparatus in the park, visiting soft play facilities and using equipment in the childminder's garden.

Children are developing a good understanding of good hygiene procedures as they automatically wash their hands after messy activities and before meals. The provision of small plastic steps aids children in using the toilet and basin independently. The childminder holds a current first aid certificate and the first aid box is fully stocked, so children can be treated appropriately in the event of an accident. Children are protected from cross infection, as they do not attend when they are unwell.

The childminder works closely with the parents to find out about their child's food likes and dislikes and takes this in fully consideration when planning the daily menu. They benefit from home cooked nutritious meals and are encouraged to enjoy a variety of fruit each day. Meal times are a pleasurable and social occasion for the children as they sit at the table together and conversation is encouraged. Drinks are readily available to children throughout the day.

The childminder provides children with a positive role model. She manages children's behaviour calmly and patiently and this encourages them to respond effectively to any guidance and praise. Children enjoy each other's company and older children willingly help the younger ones with activities that they find more difficult.

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?	3
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?	3
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

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.