

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY287161
Inspection date	29/01/2009
Inspector	Jane Wakelen
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 2004. She lives with her husband and two children aged 11 and 14 in Minster on Sea, on the Isle of Sheppey, close to shops and local schools. The whole of the downstairs and two bedrooms and the bathroom upstairs are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children under eight years at any one time, of whom no more than three may be in the early years age range. She is currently minding four children in this age group. She also offers care to children aged over five years to 11 years. This provision is registered by Ofsted on the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. The childminder occasionally works with her husband as an assistant.

The childminder takes and collects children from the local school. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall, the quality of the provision is good. Children experience a caring, stimulating environment where their individual needs are met because the childminder is enthusiastic and dedicated to her role in caring for the children. Children experience a good range of activities, outings and access to toys appropriate for their stage of development, promoting their learning in the Early Years Foundation Stage. The childminder ensures activities are planned to accommodate the needs of the children attending, differentiating activities where necessary to include all children. The childminder regularly evaluates her practice and by completing the Self-Evaluation Form (SEF), she identifies areas to improve and develop to promote good outcomes for children.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- ensure observations are analysed to highlight children's achievements to create records that are clear and accessible to everybody who needs to see them
- expand opportunities to ensure all areas of learning are given equal emphasis, such as, exploiting the mathematical potential of the indoor environment through practical situations and presenting a wide range of activities that children can respond to by using many of their senses and creativity.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder is committed to providing good quality care for children she looks after and attends training courses to ensure she updates her skills and knowledge regularly. She works with her husband, who works as her assistant, to evaluate her practice to ensure requirements are met and that children are making good progress in their learning and development. The SEF identifies the childminder's evaluation of the service she provides and indicates areas where she would like to improve and develop, such as the children's assessment records and observations.

Parents are confident with the childminder's service and the experiences she offers their children. They feel involved in the decision making about their child's development and have opportunities to complete a questionnaire about the service provided as well as daily, verbal communication. Parents have access to written information, such as policies and procedures, which are updated on a regular basis and are able to see their child's development records on request, although these do not fully reflect progress children make whilst at the setting. Record forms are completed for each child with information about their personal needs to ensure continuity of care and to meet their individual needs, regarding their learning and development.

Children are extremely safe as the childminder has a comprehensive understanding about safeguarding children and has attended training to ensure she follows the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures. All relevant information is available and systems, such as the visitors book promotes children's safety and well being whilst in the childminder's care.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children experience a good range of activities to cover the six areas of learning, from activities outside using large play equipment, visits to the local park, opportunities to feed the ducks and a good selection of toys and activities indoors. Children are able to make choices about activities they would like to play with, from those pre-selected by the childminder or from the low cupboards. These choices are supported by pictorial aids stuck on the cupboard to help the younger children make their preferences known through pointing, if language is not fully developed. The toys and equipment are in good condition and are suitable for the ages of children attending the setting. Children are able to make good progress in their learning and development because the childminder has a good understanding about their individual interests and stage of development. However, not all activities extend children's learning equally in all six areas, such as problem solving, reasoning and numeracy and creative development because observations are not always analysed to identify children's achievements.

Children are able to play in a safe, well maintained environment where they have room to move around freely and access good quality equipment and toys safely. The childminder has an excellent understanding about promoting children's safety and has thorough risk assessments in place which she constantly reviews to ensure

hazards are minimised for children, both indoors and outdoors. Measures have been implemented such as harnesses on high chairs, socket covers and stairgates to ensure children's safety. Children are given reminders about keeping themselves safe, such as sitting down whilst eating, remembering to chew their food properly and not running indoors to support their understanding of safety issues. Procedures to promote being healthy are excellent. Each child has their own box of toiletries such as face cloths, nappies and wipes and learn why it is important to regularly wash hands to remove germs. This understanding and hygiene procedures, such as the use of antibacterial soap and separate hand towels ensures cross infection is minimised. Meals are nourishing and well-balanced, such as roast chicken with vegetables and supported by a range of healthy snacks, such as fresh fruit and vegetable batons. The promotion of outdoor play and exercise together with a balanced diet fully supports children's understanding about a healthy lifestyle.

All children are included within the childminder's care and the firm partnership with parents supports children's welfare and ensures they make good progress in their development. They are encouraged to understand each other's differences and show respect for each other. Children are supported in their understanding about diversity through discussion, small world toys and a good range of books. Children learn to take turns and share the different toys with support from the childminder and her assistant. The simple poster on the wall lists the house rules in writing and pictures to support all children's understanding.

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?	1

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?	1
How well are children helped to be healthy?	1
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

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider of Ofsted to take any action.

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.

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