

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	111856
Inspection date	06/02/2009
Inspector	Judith Reed
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 2000. She lives with her husband and children aged six, 11 and 15 years in the Netley Abbey area, near Southampton. The whole of the childminder's home is registered for childminding, however, this mainly takes place on the ground floor which is fully accessible. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The family have two pet cats.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five 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 five children in this age group on a part-time basis. She also offers care to children aged over five years to 11 years. This provision is registered by Ofsted on the Early Years Register and both the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register.

The childminder collects children from a local school and attends several groups for children on a regular basis. She is a member of an approved childminding network and is currently in receipt of funding for early education for three and four year olds.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is good. Children are settled, happy and very well occupied. The childminder is involved with the children and enjoys her time with them. She provides an inclusive and accessible environment where children are encouraged to help themselves to the toys stored around the rooms. The childminder values training opportunities and meets other childminders to share good practice ideas.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- continue to develop observation and assessment and share these records with parents to plan future targets for development.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

Children benefit from the ongoing development of the childcare setting. The childminder frequently attends relevant training courses to help develop her provision and meets other childminders as part of the local childminding network. The network co-ordinator supports the childminder as they carry out regular evaluation together.

Partnership with parents is good and the childminder ensures that she gathers parent's opinions through evaluation forms. They state that the childminder does

an extremely good job and their children enjoy spending time with her. Parents are informed about the policies and procedures and feel the childminder is very professional. The childminder completes a useful daily diary keeping parents informed about their children's activities and areas of learning covered. Parents appreciate the informative diary as it gives an insight into what children have done during the day.

Children are effectively safeguarded and the childminder promotes children's welfare because she carries out risk assessments of her property and has undertaken up to date training regarding safeguarding children. All necessary steps are taken to keep children safe by ensuring they cannot access dangerous items. The childminder teaches young children about keeping themselves safe. They hold on to the pushchair when out and about and talk about crossing roads safely.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children choose their own activities from the wide selection available. Children's learning is effectively supported because the childminder is very well aware of the stage of development of each child. Children enjoy themselves and the childminder encourages their play. She has a warm, close relationship with the children and they laugh and giggle often. The childminder makes informal plans to support children's development. She makes regular notes about children's activities. She has created a file for each child and keeps information about their activities and achievements. These records of development include many well annotated photographs and examples of children's work. However, the childminder does not make formal observations of children's play or use the records to discuss ongoing developmental targets with the parents.

The childminder knows children's individual interests and plans for activities such as dinosaur play and then adds simple resources to extend children's learning in all areas. For example the children play with the plastic dinosaur figures. They unzip the box which forms into a play mat with suitable scene. The children observe the mountains and fire and the childminder talks about the fire and keeping safely away from it. The children move on to do some drawing and one says he will draw a cave. He completes his drawing and says it is a cave for the dinosaurs. Other children ask the childminder to draw around their hands. They say it tickles. They then draw around the childminder's hand and she says it tickles too. The children then decide they want to have their feet drawn around. They successfully remove their shoes and socks and stand on the paper for the childminder to draw around their feet. They giggle as the childminder runs the crayon around their feet and she asks if it tickles. The childminder counts their toes as she draws around them. She then begins to sing 'This little piggy went to market', which causes more laughter and giggling. The children play outside in the garden often. The childminder ensures they are fully covered in suitable clothing during wet, cold weather. Children enthusiastically kick a ball and observe the rain and snow falling.

The childminder is well organised and children's health and welfare are effectively underpinned because all required policies, procedures and documentation are in place. Children are well occupied and their behaviour is good. The childminder

encourages children to have good manners and say please and thank you. They are encouraged to put away toys and equipment after use and to be kind to one another. The childminder uses helpful pictorial displays to support children and enable them to talk about their feelings.

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

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 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.