

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	113312
Inspection date	29/01/2009
Inspector	Carol Patricia Willett
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 has been registered since 1996. She lives with her husband and their three children in a house in the rural village of Alresford, Hampshire. The local pre-school, shops, parks and school are within walking distance. Childminding takes place mainly on the ground floor where there are also toilet facilities. Children use the upstairs area when they require a sleep. There is a fully enclosed rear garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and both the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. She may care for six children under eight years at any one time. She is currently minding 13 children at varying times, four of whom are in the early years age group. The childminder attends a local toddler group and the local childminding group. She is a member of the National Childminding Association. She has a diploma in Childminding Practice.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall, the quality of the provision is good. Children are happy and secure and have good opportunities to develop their skills within a welcoming, homely environment. The childminder promotes inclusive practice as she effectively organises all aspects of her practice to ensure children's individual welfare and learning and development needs are met. She develops generally positive partnerships with parents and others involved in children's care and learning. The childminder has started to evaluate her practice and has identified areas for further improvement to enhance her provision for children.

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 and understanding of the EYFS in order to assess, observe and plan more effectively for children's next steps in learning and development, linked to the early learning goals
- improve safeguarding procedures; ensure injuries children arrive with are recorded in order to protect children
- further improve self-evaluation and reflective practice in order to effectively identify strengths and areas for improvement

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder forms caring affectionate relationships with the children and makes them feel welcome in her home so they are confident and secure in her care. She is experienced and enthusiastic about caring for children and helping them learn and develop. Consequently they settle quickly in the homely environment. The childminder organises her home well and she provides a wide

range of toys and resources which are easily accessible. The children are independent in their play as they choose where to play and what to play with. Children's welfare is generally safeguarded well. The childminder has a written child protection policy, which she shares with parents to make them aware of her responsibilities. However, she does not record injuries children arrive with which means they are not fully safeguarded. A record is kept of visitors to the home. The childminder takes complaints seriously and uses them to improve her practice to make it safer for children.

The childminder has a good range of documentation in place to support her practice. She provides parents with information about her policies and procedures. Children's welfare and learning are promoted well as the childminder talks to parents about their children and their starting points at initial meetings. The childminder uses information gained from discussions and observations of children to plan for children's individual needs. Parents are kept well informed through a written daily diary and verbal exchanges of information. The childminder also displays information for parents on a notice board in the hallway. Parents are positive in their praise of the childminder's practice in letters provided for the inspection. The childminder is committed to continually improving her provision. She is enthusiastic about training and her professional development. She has obtained a diploma in Childminding Practice and attended various training courses related to early years practice since her last inspection. The childminder meets regularly with other local childminders and they share good practices, new information and organise their own first aid course. The childminder realises the benefit of reflective practice and has started to complete a self-evaluation form.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children are confident in the childminder's home as she is friendly, attentive and caring. They play freely and show a good motivation to learn as they actively occupy themselves playing with a range of different toys. The childminder has good interactive skills as she helps children enjoy their play and supports their learning. The children are engrossed in their play and the childminder provides additional resources they request to develop their imaginative role play in the fairy castle pop up tent and dressing up clothes. The childminder is developing her confidence and skills to fully incorporate the learning and development requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage into her practice, her observations and her planning for individual children's learning. The childminder uses information gained from observing children's learning to plan for their future development. The childminder has a good understanding of the importance of children's individual learning and ensures children have suitable opportunities to develop in all areas. Children have good opportunities to develop their knowledge and understanding of the world. They go on outings with the childminder, for example, to Birdworld and Alice Holt Forest. Children learn about different cultures and festivals and meet with other adults and children as they regularly attend local toddler and childminding groups.

Children keep healthy and learn about healthy lifestyles as the childminder ensures they have opportunities for regular exercise and fresh air. They go for walks with

the childminder and visit soft play centres. They enjoy pushing wheeled toys around indoors and use a range of garden toys. Young children develop their fine motor control as they play with shape sorters and peg boards. The childminder has suitable hygiene routines and procedures in place which promote the children's welfare. She promotes healthy eating and ensures the children have plenty to drink throughout the day, making sure their cups are freely available to them. The childminder keeps children safe as the front door is kept locked and the garden is secure. The childminder completes risk assessments for her home and places the children visit regularly. They practise fire evacuation to develop their confidence and awareness in an emergency. Children behave well as the childminder acts as a good role model when she talks to the children; she is attentive and provides plenty for them to do. Older children help make the rules so they develop responsibility for their own behaviour management.

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?	3
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.