

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	125705
Inspection date	09/02/2009
Inspector	Susan Linda Capon
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).

Children only attend this setting before and/or after the school day and/or during the school holidays. The judgements in this report reflect the quality of early years provision offered to children during those periods.

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 been registered in 1997. She lives in a detached house in the Dunton Green area of Kent with her husband and three teenage children. All areas of the home are available for childminding and there is a secure garden for outdoor play. There are two steps to the front door and one step to the rear door to the property.

The family has a rabbit and goldfish.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children under eight years at any one time. She is currently caring for five children in the early years age range. One attends on a full-time basis. The childminder provides care for children with disabilities.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and is involved with the local childminding network. She makes use of the local amenities including the parks.

The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The children play in a warm, welcoming, clean, child orientated environment, enabling them to develop good relationships with the childminder, one another and the family members of the household. Every child's safety is paramount to the childminder as she implements good risk assessments indoors, outdoors and on outings each day. All the children enjoy attending the setting as they participate in challenging, interesting activities on a daily basis, with some not wanting to leave at the end of the day. The childminder incorporates the individual needs of all the children attending into her daily plans. Good relationships are forged between the childminder and the children's parents, ensuring continuity of care for every child attending.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- ensure all existing injuries are documented to protect children at all times.
- continue to develop the assessment arrangements for each child, ensuring they are able to develop and progress through the early learning goals at their individual rate, enabling them all to reach their full potential.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder provide parents with a well organised portfolio of information, including the policies and procedures which underpin how she organises her setting on a daily basis. She implements good safeguarding procedures for the majority of the time. However, children's existing injuries are not currently recorded, preventing the protection of the children at all times. Children are never left unsupervised with un-vetted persons.

The childminder self-evaluates her provision well through detailed written information. She is fully aware of the strengths of the provision and ensures she continues to develop her childcare skills to ensure she provides good quality care to the parents and children. For example, she has attended an observations, assessment and planning course, enabling her to implement the Early Years Foundation Stage programme well. She recognises the need to continue to develop the existing assessment arrangements, ensuring all children can continue to make individual progress and development through the early learning goals. All improvements identified at the last inspection have been suitably completed. For example, all cleaning materials are inaccessible to children at all times.

Good relationships with all parents keeps them fully involved in their child's day to day progress and development. Detailed daily written information ensures parents are aware of their child's daily routine, including the activities they enjoy and their eating and sleeping patterns. Additional daily discussions enable all parties to share information to promote continuity of care for each child attending.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The children are very settled, confident and happy in the childminder's care. They all look forward to their day as they are keen to participate in the activities offered by the childminder alongside, selecting their own resources and activities from the good variety freely available. All the children are encouraged to develop their self-help skills, during the day from putting on their own shoes to go out for a walk to tidying the toys away after use. They decide when they need a drink from their readily available beaker.

All the children enjoy exploring their boundaries in safety. The childminder has identified all potential hazards indoors and outdoors, making them safe and preventing children having unnecessary accidents. For example, keys to main exits are inaccessible to children, preventing them leaving the premises unnoticed. Ample space is available for children to develop their crawling, walking and dancing skills as they play together.

All the children are developing a good understanding of the importance of eating healthy foods and enjoying regular fresh air and exercise. Home made meals and snacks incorporate a good balance of fresh fruit and vegetables each day. Individual likes, dislikes and any specific dietary needs are fully incorporated into the childminder's menus, ensuring all children receive appropriate food and drink

for their individual needs. Food provided by parents is suitably stored, cooked and served, ensuring they are safe for the children to eat. Everyone uses good hygiene procedures throughout the day and children take regular trips to the local dentist, learning the importance of caring for their teeth and gums. Children develop their physical skills as they climb, jump and slide in the garden or participate in yoga and dancing activities indoors.

Children enjoy a balanced programme of activities each day. Plans are flexible, taking account of children's interests and changing weather. For example, the children particularly enjoyed exploring the deep snow which had fallen. Suitable equipment is available for the care of children under two years, ensuring their daily rest and sleep routine can be maintained as required. Children, using a high chair at meal times are placed close to the table, ensuring they are fully included in the social occasion.

The childminder provides good care for children with disabilities, ensuring their individual needs are incorporated into her day and she works closely with other professionals when required. For example, the childminder has previously been shown how to fit hearing aids for a deaf child in her care.

Children are making good progress through the early learning goals as they play and learn under the childminder's guidance. The childminder sits on the floor with the children, encouraging them to build a farm with the bricks and then identify all the animals and the noises they make. Older children enjoy showing younger children how frogs and monkeys move as they imaginatively hop and jump around the room. The children are developing good language skills as they are able to name the animals correctly, pronouncing the words clearly. For example, elephant. They explore the concept of bigger and smaller as they discuss their ears and the elephants ears. They know the giraffe has a very long neck and the frog lives in a pond on a lily pad. Singing and cooking activities enable children to develop their counting and measuring skills. Children enjoy playing together and alongside one another as they play with the trains and track. Younger children enjoy putting their figure in and out of the carriage while other children spend a long time intently joining the train and it's carriages to play with them on the train track. Children enjoy opportunities to visit other childminders and play with other children of a similar age and stage of development. This also enables them to develop their overall social skills. Regular visits to the local park, Bradbourne Lakes and Hayside Environmental Park enable children to develop their knowledge and understanding of their local community. Children are developing their awareness of other cultures as they participate in activities, relating to Christmas and Chinese New Year.

The children behave well as they play together. Younger children continue to develop their understanding of the importance of sharing and being kind to one another as the childminder consistently reinforces the house rules when required. Children know it is not nice to throw the toys and understand they might hurt someone. Other children are learning they should not snatch a toy from a younger child. Regular praise and encouragement and the childminder's calm, consistent approach ensures the children play harmoniously together for the majority of the time.

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?	1
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.