

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	112123
Inspection date	13/01/2009
Inspector	Lisa Ellis

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).

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 registered in 1997. She lives with her husband and two teenage children in a house in a residential area of Portchester, Hampshire. The house is accessible and is within walking distance to local schools, pre-school, shops, park and library. The ground floor of the property is used for play, with children being accompanied upstairs to use the bathroom. There is a fully enclosed rear garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and both the voluntary and compulsory parts of the Childcare Register. There are currently four children on roll, of which three are in the early years age range. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and has no pets.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Children receive good levels of individual care and attention as the childminder knows them and their interests well. This enables her to provide an inclusive environment with activities that all children enjoy. The childminder ensures she keeps up to date with her training to continuously improve her provision to make it successful in promoting positive outcomes for children.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- further develop the systems to monitor children's assessments to show the progress they are making in each area of learning

The leadership and management of the early years provision

Children are happy and confident within the setting. The childminder's home is well laid out to promote their safety and enable them to have independence in selecting their own resources. Children are well safeguarded as they are never left alone with unvetted people and are well supervised at all times. The childminder has a clear understanding of the procedures to follow should she have concerns regarding children's welfare and shares this information with parents.

The childminder has effective systems in place to evaluate her provision, such as using questionnaires to assess parents' levels of satisfaction. These show that parents are very happy with the levels of care and education that their children receive from her. The childminder has also completed a self-evaluation form, which has highlighted a few areas that she would like to improve on, such as keeping more records of activities and outings to further highlight the progress children are making in each area of learning. Since the last inspection, the childminder has attended relevant training and has booked herself on more courses to increase her

knowledge and ensure she is up to date with childcare issues.

Clear procedures are in place for sharing information with parents to promote the welfare of the children. For example, they are asked to visit with their children to help them settle in and are provided with comprehensive written information to refer back to. The childminder ensures children's individual needs are met by checking home routines with parents to promote consistency in their care. Parents receive verbal feedback on a daily basis about how their children have been.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children thoroughly enjoy their time with the childminder as she listens to their likes and dislikes and provides activities that follow their individual interests. They are making good progress in their development, although the system to monitor their assessments is not yet fully developed to show their progress in each area of learning. However, this has limited impact on the children at the moment. The childminder keeps written records of what children have done and identifies the next steps in their learning to enable them to continue to make progress at their own speed. All of the required regulatory paperwork is in place, is stored confidentially and is shared with parents as necessary to meet the children's needs.

Children benefit from regular trips out in the local environment where they learn a range of skills for the future, for example, road safety and stranger danger. They get plenty of fresh air and exercise on a daily basis as the childminder takes them for walks to areas of interest, such as the community market where they select fresh produce for their snacks and meals which greatly contributes to a healthy lifestyle. Participating in regular fire drills helps children to learn about their own safety and good hygiene routines help to protect them from the spread of germs and infection. They have their own hand towels and are familiar with the routines of hand washing throughout the day.

Children learn about technology through age appropriate activities, for example, young children are helped to use hand held electronic games, which helps to develop their hand-eye coordination. Children enjoy sitting and chatting with the childminder as they play, while she skilfully extends their learning by asking them questions to make them think, for example, talking about shape, colour and size while using play dough. Children learn about the wider world through a selection of resources that promote diversity. The childminder successfully follows the children's lead in teaching them about different countries, for example, when children showed an interest in large animals, she got out books and maps from other parts of the world to show children where they originate from.

Children have free access to a very good selection of resources that meet their individual needs. The childminder rotates equipment on a regular basis to keep children interested in what is available to them and also uses the local toy library to bring in different types of resources.

Children enjoy sitting with her to look at books as she allows them to join in and talk about what they can see, which helps with their communication skills.

Children's behaviour is very good as the childminder has clearly established house rules that help them to understand the behavioural boundaries. She uses a lot of praise with them to increase their confidence and try new things.

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.