

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	507347
Inspection date	15/01/2009
Inspector	Ann Moss
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 three children, in Fetcham, Surrey. There is easy access to the premises. The whole ground floor of the childminder's home is used for childminding, with bathroom and sleeping facilities upstairs. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and both the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. She is currently caring for three children, all of whom are in the early years age group. All children attend on a part-time basis. The childminder cares for children weekdays throughout the year. The family has two cats.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The childminder creates a welcoming environment and actively promotes children's welfare with success to ensure that they are safe and secure. She works hard to foster positive relationships with every child and their parents to ensure that their care and learning needs are fully met. Policies and practice are effective and inclusive for all children that attend. The childminder has the capacity to self-evaluate her provision and enhance her practice for the benefit of the children.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- further develop knowledge and understanding of the procedures for investigating all written complaints relating to the requirements
- keep a clear daily record of the names of the children looked after on the premises.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder has implemented a formal system of self-evaluation and is aware of her strengths and areas for future development in her practice. She has taken advantage of training opportunities to develop her knowledge further. She has identified the need for certain documentation, such as a risk assessment for her home and outings and has good systems in place. Children's welfare is also safeguarded by the childminder's good knowledge of local child protection procedures and her understanding of her responsibility for the children in her care. This ensures that children are well protected. However, the childminder does not accurately record children's attendance in the register, which could compromise their safety.

Relationships with parents are open, friendly and professional. This helps to ensure

continuous and consistent care for children. The childminder has developed comprehensive written policies and procedure that are shared with parents, although the childminder's knowledge of the procedures for investigating written complaints is insecure. The childminder actively seeks parents' views and comments about her practice, through a written questionnaire, so that she can continually upgrade the service she provides. Parents receive written information about their child's development and care through a daily communications book and through the use of a learning journey with photographs and evidence of each child's work. This ensures that parents receive information about their child's achievements in relations to the six areas of learning. Parents can take home their child's learning record when they leave the setting.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The childminder provides a calm, child oriented environment where children are happy and content. They have developed a strong sense of belonging to the setting and are very familiar with the routines and the childminder's expectations. Children are generally self assured, participate in activities with enthusiasm and although happy to initiate conversation with the childminder they are reserved with visitors to the setting. The childminder provides a good amount of clear floor space for children to move around and play freely. The dedicated playroom has child height furniture, educational posters, low storage to enable children's independent access to resources, and displays of photographs and children's art work, which enhances their self-esteem. Resources are of good quality and appropriate for the children's age and developmental stage.

The childminder has attended an introductory course on the Early Years Foundation Stage, which has started to develop her knowledge of the six areas of learning. She has started to make regular observations in order to assess children's development and can readily talk about what she needs to do to help them make progress. Children are able to make choices about their play and join in enthusiastically as there is a range of both adult-led and child-initiated activities, which are interesting, fun and develop their creativity and imagination. Planned activities are based around various themes, which are often based on children's interests and topics, such as seasons. Children enjoy role play and eagerly go outside in to the garden to play in the sand tray and ride wheel toys. The childminder makes some use of these opportunities to talk about the weather and to encourage children to listen to sounds a bird makes.

Children's health and hygiene is well promoted because the environment is warm, clean and well maintained. The childminder ensures parents understand her policy with regards to the care of sick children and has attended first aid training. Children gain a good understanding of healthy practices as they wash their hands before eating and have the opportunity to eat healthy snacks, such as banana. The childminder ensures that there are daily opportunities for children to spend time outside each day and benefit from fresh air. Children learn aspects of managing their own personal safety as they negotiate steps and ride on wheeled toys. Children respond to the childminder's appropriate behaviour management strategies that take account of their age and stage of development. They receive

praise and encouragement to play harmoniously together and share resources. The childminder is beginning to help children to appreciate diversity and develop a positive view of society and the wider world through their many outings.

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
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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.