

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	150811
Inspection date	30/04/2009
Inspector	Helen Mary Ball

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 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 school-aged children in a house in Kings Somborne, Hampshire. The whole of the home is used for minding including a secure garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time, of these two may be in the early years age range. She is currently minding four children in the early years age range and two children over five years of age. Children are minded before and after school and early years children attend for a variety of sessions. This provision is registered by Ofsted on the Early Years Register, and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register.

The childminder walks and drives to local schools to take and collect children. She regularly takes children to toddler group and visits the local park and shops. The family have one pet rabbit and two guinea pigs.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The childminder is outstanding. She is exceptionally calm and patient with children who are inspired by her sensitive but enthusiastic approach. She is very competent in assessing children's individual abilities and offers sensitive support to enable all children to achieve and experience the sense of a job well done. As a result, children make excellent progress towards the early learning goals. This is a calm and harmonious setting where the childminder continually evaluates her provision so that she can effectively plan for continuous improvement.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

To further improve the high quality early years provision the registered person should consider:

- continue to develop links with other providers of the Early Years Foundation Stage so that children benefit from a collaborative approach to their learning and development

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder is highly organised. This means that meticulous records are maintained and children's health and welfare are very effectively underpinned because all required policies, procedures and consents are in place to underpin her highly effective practice. The childminder is committed to continuous improvement through critical evaluation, reflective planning and a positive approach to ongoing training.

The childminder regularly evaluates her practice and continually strives to improve

the outcomes for children; she displays a clear understanding of inclusive practice and encourages children to be fully involved in all aspects of their play and learning. As a result, children are extremely well motivated and they have high levels of self-esteem. Children are extremely well safeguarded at this setting; the childminder has a clear understanding of the signs and symptoms of child abuse and has written a comprehensive child protection policy.

Partnership with parents is excellent. The childminder provides daily feedback to parents about what their children have been doing, and shares children's comprehensive developmental and achievement records on a regular basis. In addition, the childminder helps parents to understand what it is like for a child at her setting through a range of photographs that document the vast range of activities their children enjoy. The childminder has started to make links with other settings that children attend.

Overall, the welfare of the children is promoted extremely well in all aspects; they are at the heart of everything the childminder does.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The childminder's love of working with children shines through in this happy home where each child's uniqueness is valued. The childminder has embraced the implementation of the Early Years Foundation Stage and the meticulous organisation of the educational programme means that children make excellent progress in their learning; they have significant levels of achievement in relation to their starting points and capabilities. The childminder finds out about children's starting points from their parents and she keeps comprehensive records of children's achievements, both through written records and photographs which are linked to the areas of learning. She successfully uses these records, as well as her knowledge of children's individual interests, to identify children's next steps in learning. In consultation with the children, the childminder provides enjoyable activities to enable them to achieve. For example, children show a fascination for fish. As a result, the childminder took the children to the local 'World of Water' where they could observe both tropical and fresh water fish. When children returned home, the childminder offered a wide range of art and craft materials to enable the children to make collages of their favourite fish.

The childminder very effectively supports children's learning; she provides sensitive support to children so that they experience a sense of accomplishment. She plays on the floor alongside very young children and this gives them a feeling of security. Her fun approach inspires children and they squeal with delight as they weigh objects, gradually adding more to the scales until everything topples. Whilst playing, the childminder is skilled at introducing mathematical language such as heavier, lighter, more and less. The childminder helps children to share and take turns and she uses positive behaviour management techniques such as rewarding children with merit certificates for 'good sharing'.

Children greatly benefit from attending a provision where the childminder continually seeks to improve. She is inspired by new ideas and continually re-

evaluates the provision and resources. She understands that very young children have a short attention span and frequently changes activities so that they are fully engaged at all times. The childminder encourages children to have a voice in what she does and consults with children when planning activities for each week. Children report that they are very happy at the setting and that the childminder is fun.

Children are very effectively safeguarded both in the home and on outings because the childminder carries out comprehensive risk assessments and takes every possible step to assure children's safety. Children learn how to keep themselves safe in the sun, about the green cross code, and they take part in regular fire drills. As a result, they develop a good understanding of personal safety. The childminder is vigilant when supervising children but she does not compromise their independence. Children learn about keeping healthy through daily routines; they are encouraged to be active in the outdoors every day, and the childminder ensures they rest according to their individual routines so they are refreshed and ready to learn. Children are very well protected against the spread of infection because they use individual flannels and hand towels, and the childminder wears gloves when changing nappies.

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?	1
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	1
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	1

Leadership and management

How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?	1
How effective is the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement?	1
How well does the setting work in partnership with parents and others?	1
How well are children safeguarded?	1

Quality and standards

How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?	1
How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?	1
How well are children helped to stay safe?	1
How well are children helped to be healthy?	1
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	1
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	1
How well are children helped develop skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being?	1

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