

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	112583
Inspection date	28/01/2009
Inspector	Coral Hales
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 is a qualified practitioner who registered in 1994. She lives with her husband and three teenage children in Park Gate near Southampton. She is registered on the Early Years Register and both the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register.

Childminding takes place on the ground floor and the premises are accessible to all. There is fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to provide care for a maximum of six children under eight at any one time. There are currently eight children on roll; of these, five are within the early years age group and three are in the later years age group.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association (NCMA) and has successfully completed the NCMA Quality First assurance scheme.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is good. All children make good progress in their learning and development because the childminder recognises them all as individuals and has a suitable understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage framework. She works well in partnership with parents and others to effectively meet every child's needs and overall, an inclusive and welcoming service is provided.

Parents are meaningfully involved in the self-evaluation process although the childminder's planning for continuous improvement is mainly informal. However, she has a good understanding of how she wishes to bring about further improvement to the provision and outcomes 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 children's records in line with new guidance to clearly show their achievements and abilities and use the evidence gained to plan their next steps in learning.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder offers a provision that is well arranged to encourage children's independence and to enable them to be active learners. She is enthusiastic and motivated and keen to try new things and has been proactive in developing her professional development. She is now a level 3 qualified practitioner and attends regular training courses and this has a positive impact on children's learning and

development. She provides planned, yet flexible routines that meet individual children's needs.

The childminder is committed to providing a quality service and involves her parents as she values their views and opinions. She has informal systems in place to monitor and evaluate her practice and recognises the benefit of reflective practice. The childminder has effective risk assessment strategies in place and this includes any outings that she takes the children on. Suitable safety measures are in place in the home to minimise hazards. This ensures that the premises are safe and that children's safety is maintained.

The childminder has good relationships with parents and ensures that they are made aware of her policies and procedures as part of the registration process. Effective two-way communication on a daily basis keeps them up to date with the activities the children have taken part in while in her care. Daily diaries are kept for the younger children and these are effective in sharing care issues.

The childminder has a good knowledge of child protection procedures. She is clear about her roles and responsibilities and has attended additional training to further develop her understanding. This ensures that she safeguards all children in her care.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children make good progress and show positive attitudes to learning, being confident and curious learners. The childminder helps them to learn appropriately both in and out of doors and challenges their thinking. Children really enjoy the close contact with the childminder and are happy and settled. A good selection of resources is available to support all areas of learning and this is easily accessible to the children and promotes their independence well.

The childminder knows the children really well and this ensures that she has a clear understanding of children's abilities and starting points. She is currently making changes to the systems she uses to observe and record children's progress and achievements.

Babies enjoy the close interaction with the childminder and the other children. They listen and respond to her well, for example, when they look at books together. Another child happily makes a road way, moving the cars around. The childminder is skilled at meeting the needs of both children together. Children love to take part in creative activities. They are enabled to work independently, which has a positive impact on their confidence and self-esteem. A wide range of colourful materials are provided for the children to self select. They are keen to show their Chinese dragon to others and discuss events relating to Chinese New Year. They have many opportunities to use tools to develop their fine skills and showed skill, for example, when using chopsticks to pick up pieces of fruit.

The childminder is skilled at developing children's vocabulary and effectively supports them throughout all tasks. Children are active and motivated learners.

The childminder is mindful not to over direct their play but is led very much by their responses to activities and resources. Children ask lots of questions, for example, what time lunch will be; they are then shown on the clock and begin to understand about the concept of time.

Children learn about a healthy lifestyle, having healthy snacks to eat, for example, grapes and drinks are available at all times. Parents provide all meals. At lunchtimes children are given time to enjoy their food and social skills are well promoted. The childminder provides a good selection of information relating to healthy eating, for example, by displaying posters. She shares this information with parents. Children wash their hands independently and individual towels are used to prevent cross-infection. The care needs of the younger children are met in line with individual routines. They have opportunities to play, rest and sleep as required. Parents are aware of health policies and procedures and all appropriate documentation is completed. The childminder meets individual medical needs well, ensuring children are happy and suitably supported.

Children go out for walks to the park and the woods and really enjoy being outside. They also take part in singing and musical activities indoors and enjoy jumping around to music. Children walk to collect others from school and have plenty of opportunities to be out in the fresh air. During outings the childminder helps the children to learn basic road safety and when using the car they begin to understand safety issues, for example, why they sit in special seats. She has a good selection of resources to promote road safety and uses these effectively to further develop their understanding of how to keep themselves safe. Fire procedures are displayed and are known and understood by the children as these have been discussed with them and they have taken part in emergency evacuations.

Children behave well in response to the childminder's calm manner. She discusses issues with them as they arise. Children learn about being nice to each other and how to share and take turns. They have opportunities to learn about diversity through different resources and materials, for example, they are currently learning about Chinese New Year. Their understanding is supported well by the childminder, who ensures that they have experiences that enable them to begin to understand the lifestyles and needs of themselves and of others.

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.