

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	507325
Inspection date	16/01/2009
Inspector	Teresa Elkington
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 1993. She lives with her husband and two teenage children in Horley, Surrey. The ground floor of the childminder's house, which is accessed via front door step, is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time. She currently has four children on roll, in the early years age range, who attend on a part time basis. The childminder is also registered on the compulsory and the voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. She walks to local schools and pre-schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local toddler group and local childminding group. The family has six rabbits, one guinea pig and a cat. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Children make good progress in their development and learning, as the childminder has a clear understanding of children's individual needs. The childminder promotes children's independence well. Children are happy and content and have warm relationships with the childminder and other family members, allowing children to feel settled and at home. The childminder provides an inclusive service, which ensures that each child is valued as an individual and are able to reach their full potential through support and guidance. She shows a commitment to undertake further training in support of her work. However, the lack of self evaluation does not allow the childminder to plan effectively for own development to ensure sound and continued improvement within her provision and to support outcomes for children.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- develop the use of reflective practice and self-evaluation to identify strengths and priorities for development that will continuously improve the quality of the provision for all children
- ensure that children's next steps are being clearly identified and used in leading future planning
- practise the emergency evacuation regularly so that all children know how to protect themselves in an emergency

To fully meet the specific requirements of the EYFS, the registered person must:

- maintain a record of full risk assessments for each type of outing and for the premises, environment and equipment, stating when they were carried out, the dates of reviews and any action taken following a review or incident (Documentation) (also applies to

23/01/2009

- both parts of the Childcare Register)
- seek written authorisation for future emergency medical advice or treatment when children first attend (Safeguarding)

23/01/2009

The leadership and management of the early years provision

Children are cared for in a safe and secure environment. All potential risks have been identified and necessary actions have been taken, however, the childminder does not maintain appropriate records of identified risks for all aspects of her service to ensure the continued safety of the children. Children are protected from harm or abuse because the childminder understands how to recognise, record and report any concerns. The childminder works in partnership with parents. They are kept fully informed as to daily routines through both verbal and written communications. The childminder gathers information in support of children's individual routines, at the time of children coming into the provision. However, permissions from parents do not fully support the well-being of the children. For example, the lack of parental permissions to gain medical treatment or advice, prohibits the childminder from acting in the best interests of a child in the event of a medical emergency. The childminder has a good understanding of the learning and development requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. She plans appropriate activities to support the needs of individual children, incorporating the six areas of learning. Observational records are in place to enable the childminder to assess the child's stage of learning and development, however these are not used effectively to plan for children's next steps.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The childminder shows a good understanding of how children learn and provides many learning opportunities to ensure that children can achieve their developmental milestones at a level that meets their individual pace of learning. Children have access to an adequate selection of play resources, which they freely use and select, ensuring that independence is encouraged. Children are cared for in a welcoming environment where their sense of belonging is fostered well. For example, displays of their own work is posted around the home, giving them opportunities to talk about their achievements; in addition, posters and activity scrolls adorn the areas that children use, providing them with opportunities to extend their learning and knowledge of the world around them.

Children are very happy and well settled, and enjoy loving relationships with both the childminder and her family, through the warm interactions that are extended to them. Children are developing their sense of awareness in supporting the needs of others and taking responsibility for their own needs and routines. For example, children respond to the request of the childminder to tidy away toys, and wash their hands in readiness for lunch and they spontaneously select toys which they give to non mobile babies to play with. Children have access to a range of books, which they enjoy independently and through story times with the childminder.

Story times are fun. The childminder ensures full participation from the child as stories unfold, which keeps them enthused and fully engaged. Children enjoy many forms of creative activities which allows children to explore their senses and develop their use of small tools, as they use a range of mediums. Children have opportunities to learn about their immediate and wider world. They enjoy walks within the community, which allows children to note changes of their surroundings. For example, children explore and discuss the changes of the seasons as they observe the changes of different types of trees; and have access to a range of resources, which help children to understand and respect the differences from their own and other cultures.

Children's physical development is encouraged through the use of large outdoor equipment, which is available to them in the garden and through the regular visits made to local parks. Children's awareness of adopting a healthy lifestyle is further supported by a range of outdoor pursuits; for example, nature walks, visits to the farm and local shops. Children are well nourished. They receive healthy and nutritious meals in line with any dietary requirements and consultation with parents. The childminder has established effective hygiene measures to secure children's well-being. Children learn about most safety issues through the clear guidelines of the childminder for example, abiding by the rules of the road when out and about. However, children's awareness of safety, has not been fully encouraged as emergency evacuation procedures are not practised to help children become familiar with the routine to be followed in the event of any emergency.

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?	3
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	3
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	3

Leadership and management

How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?	3
How effective is the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement?	3
How well does the setting work in partnership with parents and others?	3
How well are children safeguarded?	3

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?	3
How well are children helped to stay safe?	3
How well are children helped to be healthy?	3
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:

Not Met (with actions)

The provider confirms that the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register are:

Not Met (with actions)

The registered provider does not meet the requirements of the compulsory and or voluntary part/s of the Childcare Register.

To comply with the requirements of the compulsory part of the Childcare Register, the registered person must take the following action/s by the specified date:

- take action as specified in the early years section of the report in relation to assessments 23/01/2009

To comply with the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register, the registered person must take the following action/s by the specified date:

- take action as specified in the early years section of the report in relation to assessments 23/01/2009

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.