

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	125302
Inspection date	11/05/2009
Inspector	Mary Van De Peer
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 1994. She lives with her husband and children in Birchington, near Margate, Kent. The whole ground floor area of the house is used for minding children. There are toilets located upstairs and downstairs and a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding four children in the early years age group. She is also caring for six children in the older age range. The childminder is also able to support children with learning difficulties or disabilities. She walks to local schools to take and collect children. She also attends the local toddler groups. The family has two cats and a hamster. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and has achieved an NVQ Level 3 in Childminding Practice. She receives support from the local authority. The childminder is on the Early Years Register and on both the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is good. The childminder provides a secure environment where children can make good progress in the Early Years Foundation Stage. She adapts activities effectively to enable all ages of children to participate in them. She is beginning to use reflective practices to help support her self-evaluations in order to identify where improvements can be made. The childminder has built successful partnerships with parents which ensures continuity of care 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 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
- clarify the record of risk assessments to show clearly how identified hazards have been minimised

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder is an experienced child carer. She ensures children are able to play and move around the downstairs area of her home freely and safely. There are many toys which are made available for children on rotation, resulting in a variety of different activities and opportunities children can learn from. Low storage for resources allows children to make choices in their play. Children's independence is being appropriately promoted. An accessible outdoor area means children benefit from fresh air and exercise daily. The childminder regularly risk assesses the space children use, hazards have been minimised, however these are

currently not consistently recorded. Children are learning how to keep themselves safe. For example, through practising the emergency evacuation procedure and how to behave when walking on public pathways and crossing roads. The childminder has a good knowledge and understanding of child protection procedures and has attended several training courses on this subject over time. There are policies and procedures covering various aspects of the childminder's service. These are being reviewed to bring them up to date with current practices. All required documentation is in place, including a register, accident and medication administration records. The childminder makes sure she obtains important and relevant information on each child and parents have a contract. They also provide written consents for outings, photographs and emergency medical treatment. The childminder has attended a recognised paediatric first aid training course, helping to ensure she is able to treat children's minor injuries correctly and efficiently.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The childminder gives children her full attention when they are with her. She ensures she obtains information about their background, including their likes, dislikes, interests and skills. This helps her plan a flexible play routine for each child. For example, the two year old loves moulding and cutting out shapes using play dough. The childminder helps him extend this play by asking him what the different shapes are, he is able to point out and name the triangle and dinosaur shapes. He talks about the foods he likes, resulting in him making the shapes of pizzas, sausages and tomatoes. The baby joins in by picking up and feeling the different shaped cutters. The children are learning 'sing and sign', which the childminder states has helped with the two year olds speech and his communication with his baby brother. There is a range of resources in another room and once everyone has helped to tidy up, a construction activity and small world play is chosen by the child. The childminder spends a lot of time with the children, talking, listening and encouraging them. Each child has a folder in which observations, assessments, photographs and creations in art and craft by the children are kept. The childminder is beginning to evaluate children's outcomes and has identified their next steps, which she is using in her play plans. She prepares and cooks all their snacks and meals, which include ingredients such as vegetables, meat, fish, pasta, fruit and bread. Children can often help with the food preparation and are learning about healthy eating. The childminder is firm and consistent when managing children's behaviour. They respond well to her guidance and it is clear they know the routine and follow it happily. The childminder welcomes all children into her home and ensures they have equal opportunities to play and learn.

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.	3

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?	3
How well does the setting work in partnership with parents and others?	2
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?	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

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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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