

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	112512
Inspection date	20/08/2009
Inspector	Alison Jane Kaplonek
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).

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 has been registered to care for children since 1999. She is registered on the Early Years Register and on both the voluntary and compulsory parts of the Childcare Register.

The childminder lives with her husband and children in the Olivers Battery area of Winchester which is close to local schools and shops. All areas of the property are used for childminding and access to the premises is good. Toilet facilities are on the ground floor. There is a fully enclosed garden for outdoor play. The family have a cat.

The childminder is registered to provide care for six children from nought to eight years. There are currently eight children on roll who attend part time and eight of these children are in the early years age range. She has good links with local pre-schools. The childminder has a relevant childcare qualification and takes children to the local schools, pre-schools and toddler groups.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is outstanding. Children enjoy excellent experiences with this very caring and dedicated childminder. The childminder provides learning opportunities which ensure children's continual interest and engagement and which meet each individual child's needs extremely well. Exemplary partnerships with parents, the local network coordinator, and other settings enables every child's needs to be successfully supported and their protection assured. The childminder takes effective steps to evaluate her provision for children's welfare, learning and development and regularly accesses training opportunities, enabling her to make continuous improvements to her already excellent practice.

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 update knowledge and understanding of child protection to include current local procedures.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder is highly skilled and committed with a professional approach to her role. She provides an extremely well organised and efficient service whilst maintaining a very hands on approach with the children, who thoroughly enjoy her company. The childminder is extremely well qualified and continually updates her training. She has developed excellent communication systems with parents and

other settings who deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) to the children she cares for. Parents sign to say they have seen copies of the childminder's comprehensive range of policies and procedures and are also given a thorough verbal feedback about their children's routines and achievements at the end of each day. They have the opportunity to complete questionnaires where they can give their views on the effectiveness of the childminder's practice or raise any concerns. Extremely robust self-evaluation clearly shows how the childminder seeks to improve the outcomes for children. This includes new resources to be purchased and possible changes to the premises.

The childminder has an excellent understanding of procedures to safeguard children. She has booked to attend advanced child protection training as she strives to continually update her knowledge. She ensures that family members are all suitably vetted and that children are always closely supervised by an appropriate adult. Children learn to keep themselves safe as they are reminded about road safety as they walk to the park or to pre-school. They are closely supervised at all times. The childminder regularly carries out risk assessments on the premises, toys and outings and ensures that fire drills are practised with all children. She provides an environment where children are emotionally safe and secure in their routines and relationships.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children all make excellent progress in every area of learning. They show their enjoyment at being with this excellent childminder and benefit from her very attentive and caring nature and her enthusiasm to promote learning through play. They enjoy moving freely around the interesting and very well resourced learning environment which enables them to make choices and influence their own learning. Children frequently ask the childminder to join in with their play and relish her involvement. They respond well to the questions she asks them as she stimulates them to think about which piece of puzzle they need or how they can fix the train track together. Children also take part in a range of activities outside the home, such as visits to the library, the soft play area or trips out in the local community, where they meet and interact with other children and adults of all ages.

The childminder has an excellent working knowledge and understanding of how children learn and ensures that all children are fully supported. She ensures that all six areas of learning are promoted effectively. Children enjoy organising their own play with the trains, pens and paper or the play dough. They are encouraged to share and problem solve, as they divide the dough fairly between the two of them. Regular observations of children's play and learning provides the basis for assessments and ensures that activities are planned which enable children's learning to be progressive. Key learning objectives are identified for each child and included in the planning.

The childminder is an exceptionally good role model and takes a positive and consistent approach to behaviour management, often agreeing strategies with parents which can be used at home. She helps children to learn skills to prepare

them for their later lives, such as being polite and kind to each other. Children benefit from consistent guidance from the childminder.

Children play in a very clean and secure home. They make good use of the play space, confidently moving around the environment, choosing or requesting resources that they wish to play with. Children's physical needs are very well met as they use a range of equipment in the garden and when out on trips. Children learn about keeping healthy as they talk about washing their hands before eating and how the food they eat will make their muscles strong. All children are provided with a nutritious, home cooked meal each day, and enjoy choosing their fruit or vegetables at snack time. The childminder demonstrates an excellent knowledge of food safety and healthy eating and has attended appropriate courses to ensure that her practice is effective to help promote and maintain children's good health. Children learn to keep themselves safe as they discuss road safety while they walk to school and talk with the childminder about stranger danger.

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

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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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