

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	136561
Inspection date	01/04/2009
Inspector	Rebecca Hurst
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 has been a registered childminder since 1997. She lives with her husband and their two children. The family live in a residential area in Orpington on the borders with Chelsfield. Parks, schools and shops are within easy walking distance.

All of the house is included in the registration and includes the through lounge, kitchen, study, four bedrooms and a downstairs cloakroom. There is a fully enclosed rear garden available for outside play.

The family have fish for pets. The childminder may care for no more than six children under eight years; of these, not more than three may be in the early years age group, and of these, not more than one may be under one year at any one time. The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and is on the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register.

The childminder has an NVQ Level 3 in Childcare and Education and holds a current first aid certificate. She is also a member of the National Childminding Association. The childminder has 16 children on roll of these, four are in the early years age group.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall, the quality of the provision is good. The childminder has a good knowledge of each child's individual needs, which ensures that the childminder is able to promote all aspects of the children's welfare and learning. The childminder is able to identify areas of improvement through her self evaluation process. Children are kept safe and secure and they enjoy learning about their local area and the world around them. The sound partnership with parents contributes to ensuring that the needs of all children are met and they get any additional support they need. As a result, children are making good progress given their age, starting points and ability.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- improve knowledge of diversity to further enhance children's learning and development
- improve self evaluation process to include parents and children

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder protects the children through the use of the well organised policies and procedures that are in place. The childminder is proactive in ensuring

she keeps up to date with changes to legislation and this is reflected in her policies and procedures. The childminder is fully aware of the importance of self-evaluation. The childminder is able to clearly identify areas that she wishes to improve upon through further training. However, the parents and children do not play a part in the self-evaluation process, as a result their views on the setting are not taking into account. As a result, the childminding service is not completely responsive to the needs of the children and the parents. Through the childminder's own self-evaluation she has identified that diversity and planning for festivals and celebrations is a weak area.

The procedures for safeguarding children are good and the childminder is able to demonstrate a sound understanding of keeping children safe and safeguarding their welfare. On a day to day basis the childminding runs smoothly due to the planning of activities and the organisation of resources. Good lines of communication between the childminder, nursery and school settings ensure continuity of care between the nursery/school and the parents as comments and information are shared.

The childminder ensures that she offers an inclusive service where every child matters. She ensures that she can accommodate all children's needs by ensuring settling in procedures are done on a very individual basis and good information is gathered from parents. Parents are given information about the service that is provided through the policies and procedures and permissions slips. Any changes that are made to the policies and procedures, the childminder ensures the parents are informed and given new copies. This ensures they are kept up to date with all of the childminder's practices.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Good organisation of the space available and the outside space enables children to be fully independent and safe. Children have access to a wide range of resources, where they can self-select and extend on their play. Children are supported well by the childminder in their learning and development as she ensures she takes part or is close by to support activities. The childminder does not complete written assessments on the children, however she has a very good understanding of their stages of development and is able to plan on moving the children's development and learning onto the next stage. Consequently, children are making good progress considering their starting point and ages.

Arrangements for safeguarding children are robust. Written policies and procedures have been drawn up which reflect the practices and services that are provided. Risk assessments are rigorous and regular ensuring children's safety at all times, which includes daily safety checks. All risk assessments are in the childminder's health and safety policy. This ensures that the parents are informed of what the childminder is looking for and how she protects the children.

The welfare of children is generally promoted well. The childminder is skilled in promoting and supporting children's needs and demonstrates a good understanding of the welfare requirements and guidance. Due to the stimulating

environment and the calm nature of the childminder, behaviour is very good. The childminder ensures that behaviour management is tailored to meet the age and development of the child that is involved.

Children's acquisition of independence skills are nurtured as they independently select resources to play with and the childminder openly encourages child initiated activities. This ensures that children enjoy the activities and the childminder is able to tailor it to meet the individual needs of the children that are participating in them.

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.