

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	137939
Inspection date	19/01/2009
Inspector	Lindsay Ann Farenden
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 has been registered since 1997. She lives with her husband, one adult child and one child aged 12 years. They live in a house in Sutton, Surrey. There is access to the ground floor of the house. The whole of the childminder's home is used for childminding except for one bedroom. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The family have one pet dog and two cats.

The childminder is registered to provide care for six children under eight years and there are currently three children on roll in the early years age group. The childminder also cares for children over eight years of age. The childminder is registered to care for children on the following registers: the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register.

The childminder attends local toddler groups and takes them to parks.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The childminder's excellent knowledge of each individual child ensures all aspects of children's welfare, learning and development are promoted extremely well. She constantly evaluates and reviews the effectiveness of her childminding service to continually improve the outcomes for children. The childminder values all children as individuals and is fully committed to providing a fully inclusive provision. Very effective links with parents mean they are well informed about their child's progress and achievements.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

To further improve the high quality early years provision the registered person should consider:

- further extend written risk assessments to include individual outings

The leadership and management of the early years provision

Children's care is greatly enriched by the childminder's enthusiasm. Children access a wide range of play resources and activities which are organised before the children arrive enabling them to feel welcome, confident and happy. Effective links with a childminding and toddler group support the care and education offered as activities encompass the six areas of learning.

The childminder is very keen to develop her knowledge base and since the last inspection has gained a Level 3 qualification in children's care, learning and development. She constantly updates her knowledge and attends regular training to enhance her existing meticulous practice enabling her to continually promote the care and education she provides for children. She has an excellent knowledge

of the Early Years Foundation Stage and the planning for each child is very individual; she ensures they all have an enjoyable and stimulating time in her care. The childminder is highly motivated and her commitment to continual improvement is very well demonstrated by her constant evaluation and updating of her documentation, completing the self assessment document and looking at ways of improving the observation and planning.

The childminder's very comprehensive policies, which are regularly updated and her excellent record keeping ensures children's safety and welfare are promoted very well. All the required documentation is in place, which includes accident and medical records and consent for emergency treatment.

The partnership with parents contributes significantly to ensure continuity of care and their needs are met extremely well. An 'all about me' form is completed when the child first starts and this ensures the childminder is fully aware of their individual requirements and interests. Parents are given excellent feedback about their day and progress verbally and through a daily written diary. The childminder keeps parents very well informed about their learning and development, as she shares her observations of their child's achievements and activity plans for their next stage of learning. These include photographs demonstrating children undertaking activities and significant areas of learning and development. Parents are given a copy of the childminder's portfolio which provides them with a wealth of information about her provision and policies.

The childminder goes to a great deal of effort to ensure children's individual needs are met, for example, learning familiar words in the child's first language, using sign language and ensuring any dietary requirements are adhered to. The childminder has a very positive attitude towards caring for children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and would work with parents and other agencies to ensure she can support them so they reach their full potential.

The childminder has attended a recent course on safeguarding children and has a very good understanding of the symptoms of abuse and her well written child protection policy demonstrates her clear understanding of procedures to follow if she has concerns about a child.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The childminder knows each child very well and uses this and information from her observations of their achievements to plan and provide an extensive range of experiences that provide them with plenty of challenges to support development towards the early learning goals.

Children enjoy their play and very confidently select toys which are accessible to them at their level. They use their imaginations well as they play with the doll's house, push dolls in buggies and dress up in fire officer hats. They concentrate hard on how to use shape sorters and often draw and mark make with crayons which are always readily available. The childminder enjoys the children's company and responds to cues from them as to engaging in their play as much or as little as

they choose. Young children enjoy snuggling up to the childminder as she reads and looks at books with them. Many resources reflect images of all aspects of society are integrated into every day play, which helps children to acknowledge and accept diversity.

Children enjoy a vast range of opportunities to take part in physical activities through playing in the childminder's garden and visiting venues which provide equipment, such as wheeled toys, slides and climbing and soft play equipment. Children express themselves creatively through an extensive range of media, such as many painting activities, using glue to make their own unique pictures, play dough, cornflour, and playing in the snow, sand and water. The childminder helps children's numeracy skills by counting with them as they go up the stairs, using measuring materials during cooking activities and discussing shapes, colours and numbers with them as they play.

The childminder makes sure children develop an excellent understanding of food and nutrition, through providing them with healthy foods and through tasting foods that are good for them at toddler group. They have access to drinks at all times. They learn about where food comes from by visiting the allotment with the childminder.

Children are cared for in a clean, safe and secure environment. To ensure children are kept safe the childminder conducts methodical risk assessments of her home and of some outings. Although not all risk assessments for outings are recorded the childminder's outings policy is meticulous in ensuring all risks are minimised. Children learn to keep themselves safe as the childminder teaches children about stranger danger and how to cross the road safely and practises the clear fire evacuation procedures regularly. Children behave very well because they are constantly busy and the childminder provides them with an excellent role model as she treats them with respect and talks to them in calm manner.

Children learn good hygiene procedures by washing their hands when necessary and by being taught to put their hands over their mouths when they cough and dispose of tissues hygienically. The childminder holds a current first aid certificate which ensures that any accidents are dealt with in an efficient and prompt manner.

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

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.