

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	112426
Inspection date	24/02/2009
Inspector	Coral Hales
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 was registered in 1998. She lives with her husband and three children, aged 24, 14 and 13 years, in the Locks Heath area of Southampton, Hampshire. All areas of the property are available, however childminding takes place downstairs in the playroom. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children under eight years at any one time, of whom no more than three may be in the early years age range. She is currently minding three children in this age group. She also offers care to children aged over five years to 11 years. The provision is registered on the Early Years Register and both the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall, the quality of the provision is satisfactory. The childminder knows the children well and respects their uniqueness, and they are settled and happy in her care. Effective working partnerships with parents ensure that information is shared and as a result, children's needs are met well. The childminder has completed a self-evaluation of the care she provides. She has identified areas she would like to improve, such as more regular fire practises. However, the systems used are not sufficiently robust to ensure that gaps in the provision are effectively identified.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- continue to make observations of each child's achievements, interests and learning styles. Use these to identify learning priorities to plan relevant and motivating experiences for each child
- develop knowledge and understanding of the early learning goals to ensure all children are provided with suitable experiences and activities to help build a secure foundation for learning
- develop up-to-date knowledge and understanding of child protection issues and ensure that correct procedures are followed in line with Local Safeguarding Children Board guidance (also relates to later years provision).

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

- request written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment (W1.2 Promoting good health)

27/02/2009

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder is caring and works closely with the children and their families. She has established effective links with other providers. This ensures children benefit from the sharing of information and continuity of care is maintained. Parents are kept well-informed about their child's routine and the activities they are involved in, and a daily diary has recently been implemented. This contributes to their involvement in their child's care and learning.

The childminder has a clear understanding of the need for reflective practice and has completed a self-evaluation of her practice. However, some weaknesses are not identified to ensure the continuing development of the care and learning offered.

Children are safeguarded as the childminder is aware of her duty to protect the children in her care. However, she has limited knowledge of the guidance issued by the Local Safeguarding Children Board. Risk assessments are effective and this means that children play in safe premises where hazards are minimised to promote their safety and prevent accidents. The childminder supervises the children well and safety equipment is fitted as required.

Most required documentation is in place, although not well organised. This includes registers, children's records, and accident and medication details. The childminder has some written policies, however, most require updating. Not all parents have given consent for her to obtain emergency treatment/advice for their children.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The premises are secure, safe and well-maintained and children have their own dedicated playroom. This is suitably equipped to allow them to have the space to play and develop their own ideas. Children are making satisfactory progress in their learning and are very much at home with the childminder. They frequently go to her for cuddles and close relationships are evident. The childminder works with the parents regarding the methods used for managing children's behaviour and this ensures children receive consistent messages. Children are encouraged to take turns, to share and to be kind to each other.

The childminder has a suitable understanding of children's different learning abilities and has begun to keep observations of children's progress. However, she is not fully secure in her knowledge of the early learning goals and therefore observations are not effectively linked and children's future learning needs are not always identified.

Children select from a suitable range of resources and develop their own ideas. They enjoy using pens and pencils to create pictures. They colour them in and count to ten and above as they follow numbers on the page. Children enjoy using construction sets, making 'enormous towers' and then have fun knocking them

down again, and their learning is effectively extended. Children learn how to use tools safely as they cut up a banana for a snack. Regular outings, for example to the garden centre, helps them to become aware of the local community. The childminder involves herself in the children's play and she sits with them, for example, as they look at picture cards, identifying different items and then talking about them.

Children begin to learn about how to keep themselves safe both in the home and when out. For example, they take part in fire evacuations. The childminder gives gentle reminders as required regarding the rules needed to keep themselves safe. This includes simple procedures relating to suitable road side practices when out walking.

Children's good health is effectively promoted. They are helped to understand about healthy foods when they visit the local supermarket for example, and look at different fruits and vegetables. Parents provide meals for the children and drinks are always available. Children coming in from school enjoy a snack and often request toast with spread and fresh fruit. Children have regular access to fresh air and exercise with walks to local parks and places of interest. This encourages them to develop a positive attitude towards an active lifestyle.

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?	3
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?	3
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	3
How well are children helped develop skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being?	3

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:

- ensure all required written policies are maintained (CR9 Providing information to parents) also applies to VCR

17/04/2009

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 compulsory part of the Childcare Register.

17/04/2009

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 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.