

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	130985
Inspection date	11/03/2009
Inspector	Christine McInally
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 1993. She lives with her teenage son in Brighton, East Sussex. Children have access to a dedicated play area in the basement, as well as to some rooms on the first floor. The childminder takes children on daily outings to ensure they gain physical exercise, as the garden is not suitable. The family have two pet cats.

The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. She is registered to care for a maximum of four children under eight years at anyone time. She also cares for children aged over eight years. She is currently caring for 12 children of these five are in the early years age range, all are cared for on a part-time basis.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall, the quality of the provision is good. Children are happy and settled in the warm, inclusive environment where the childminder is fully aware of their interests and capabilities. She has put in place a system to assess and record children's learning and achievements, and is beginning to use the information gathered to plan for their next steps in learning. She is beginning to develop partnerships with the other providers who are involved with the children in her care. She works closely with parents and they share valuable information that promotes children's welfare. She reflects on her practice through the use of self-evaluation and demonstrates a good capacity for improving what is offered to the children.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- increase knowledge and understanding of the six areas of learning and link observations of children's progress directly to the areas
- continue to develop and increase resources that reflect diversity.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

Children are cared for in a child friendly home. The environment is designed to provide a wide variety of stimulating, interesting and enjoyable play and learning opportunities. All required policies and procedures are in place and followed to ensure children's welfare is effectively safeguarded and promoted. The childminder has an extremely positive approach to her professional development and is currently undertaking a recognised childcare qualification. The childminder self-evaluates her practice and seeks feedback from parents in order to enhance the service she offers. She has addressed the recommendations made at the last inspection by ensuring all the required documentation is in place and has increased the range of resources available that reflect diversity helping children develop a

positive view of the wider world. However, she acknowledges that the range available is limited.

The childminder works well in partnership with parents and confidentiality is maintained. They receive good written information about the provision including policy and procedure documents. Parents are encouraged to share what they know about their child's development and are kept fully informed by the childminder of their child's achievements and progress.

The childminder maintains children's well-being by continuously monitoring safety issues in and around the home, and by supervising children closely. Appropriate risk assessments ensure effective actions are taken to manage and eliminate risks to children. Children are safeguarded as the childminder has a very clear understanding of child protection policies and procedures. She is aware of her role and responsibility to protect the children in her care. Parents are made aware of her child protection policy so that they know what action she will take if she has any concerns.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children are very happy and settled as the childminder is caring and sensitive towards their needs. Children are confident due to the consistent approach of the childminder. They understand the daily routines and expectations and are learning to share and play together. Activities stem from understanding what children can do and how learning can be extended. For example, providing more complex jigsaws and helping to grasp understanding of number and sizes. The childminder demonstrates a secure understanding of children's developing needs and provides them with a broad and interesting range of activities and play opportunities. These are appropriate to children's individual ages and stages of development. While individual files are being developed to show how children are progressing, the observations made are not consistently linked to the six areas of learning. Children enjoy a wide range of activities which contributes to their imaginative, physical, creative and language skills, such as role play, drawing, music and construction. They enjoy looking at books, both independently and with the childminder. They develop good counting skills through a variety of activities and daily routines, such as buying stamps from the post office. Visits to local toddler groups and to places of interest like the Sea Life Centre foster children's social skills well. Babies babble and utter single words to interact with the childminder and they can follow simple instructions. They show interest in interactive toys and smile as the lights and noise come on as they hit the drum. The childminder understands that each child is unique and she values and celebrates their differences.

Children are cared for in a welcoming, healthy and safe environment. The childminder has a good understanding of safety and all reasonable steps have been taken to ensure that the environment in which children are cared for is safe and secure. Children use a good range of safe and developmentally appropriate resources that are easily accessible to encourage their independence. They are learning how to keep themselves safe through age appropriate activities such as tidying away toys and practising fire evacuation. The childminder teaches the

children about the dangers of the road on the regular outings and trips. The childminder works closely with the parents to ensure that children gain the necessary nutritional balance for positive growth in a very caring environment. Children have easy and ready access to drinks allowing them to have control over their thirst and learn to meet their own needs. The childminder actively promotes good hygiene practices to minimise the risk of cross-infection. She teaches children the importance of good hand washing routines; she explains why this is necessary so that children learn the importance of personal hygiene.

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
---	-----

The provider confirms that the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register are:	Met
--	-----

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.