

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	131437
Inspection date	10/02/2009
Inspector	Judith Reed
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 was registered in 1988. She lives with her husband and three adult children in the Bitterne area of Southampton. All areas of the ground floor are used for childminding. 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 under five on a part-time basis. She also offers care to children aged over five years to 11 years. This provision is registered by Ofsted on the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register.

The childminder collects children from the local school and attends several groups for children on a regular basis. The family have a dog and tropical fish.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is outstanding. Children enjoy a secure, welcoming and stimulating environment where they learn and flourish. The childminder builds a strong and friendly relationship with both the children and their parents. She ensures she has a full understanding of all the children's individual needs. The childminder continually strives for improvement through keeping up to date with training, meeting other childminders regularly to discuss new ideas and reading relevant information.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- continuing to record children's learning and development and share with parents to discuss future learning targets

The leadership and management of the early years provision

Partnership with parents is very strong and the childminder works hard to find out about the children and their families when they first start. She establishes the children's starting points for their learning journeys through discussion, observation during the settling in period and using an information sheet as well as the 'Unique Child' documentation. Parents receive copies of all policies and procedures. The childminder allows time at the end of the day to chat informally with parents about their children's activities and achievements. The childminder also uses the 'Learning Story' booklets as a tool for discussion, although she does not always discuss future learning targets with the parents. She also keeps in touch with

parents through telephone calls, sending texts, e-mails and sharing social occasions.

The childminder undertakes thorough self-evaluation using the Ofsted documentation. She finds this a very positive process which helps to target areas for future improvement and development. The childminder skilfully includes children in the self-evaluation process by finding out their opinions and favourite activities. The childminder ensures she keeps up to date through training courses and reading relevant information. She meets fellow childminders regularly and shares good practice. The childminder also visits a Children's Centre to use the toy library and meet other professionals.

Children are safeguarded as the childminder has all necessary policies and procedures in place and she is fully aware of safeguarding guidelines. Documentation regarding accidents and medication is maintained and the childminder has up to date first aid training. The childminder carries out frequent visual and written risk assessments around her home and also ensures children are safe when out and about. Children learn how to keep themselves safe when crossing roads and to be aware of dangers at all times.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children enjoy their time with the childminder as she offers a very wide choice of activities, toys and games. The childminder uses her years of experience to provide a warm and caring environment that allows all the children in her care to gain confidence and self-assurance. She is an effective role model and uses plenty of praise and affection with the children. The childminder also helps children learn interesting skills such as sewing, knitting, and cooking. Children are listened to and their individual needs are met. They learn to co-operate with one another and to share. The childminder often plans outings to places of interest or the local market or supermarket. She ensures children are fully involved in these visits by helping to choose items to purchase or by investigating the places of interest on the internet. Children make regular trips to the library to choose different books and they relish snuggling down in the sofa to share an especially exciting book where they can all get involved. Children are enthralled to watch the workers dig up the road and this gives further opportunities for learning. Younger children in particular love to watch the diggers, rollers and dumper trucks and a hole dug up and filled several times. The childminder expertly expands on this experience by reading about construction and offering children the opportunity to use the bricks and Lego.

Children are proficient when completing jigsaw puzzles. The childminder skilfully helps children observe the pictures and talk about the people depicted. For example the children observe that the old people use a walking frame and that one person needs a blue hat to match his trousers. Children count the individual characters. Children move around the activities and ask to play a game of snakes and ladders. The children take turns and carefully count the squares. They begin to understand the rules about going down and up if you land on snakes or ladders. Children recognise the numbers on the dice saying they have thrown a number two. The childminder is patient and kind and understands when children wish to

move to another activity. She joins in the children's play and games. She talks to the children and is involved with them. The childminder also helps to build children's self esteem by valuing their work and displaying it around her room.

Children's main meals are provided by the parents, however, plenty of healthy options are offered for snacks. Children are encouraged to help prepare the food and the childminder also encourages them to think whether a food is healthy or not. They share books, watch programmes and explore the internet, gaining plenty of information about the choices available. Children are encouraged to drink fluids often and access them easily. With trips to the shops and market children are given the choice and opportunities to try new tastes and have a positive approach to healthy foods. Children follow excellent hygiene routines and have individual hand drying towels.

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

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.