

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	143249
Inspection date	19/03/2009
Inspector	Lilyanne Taylor
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 registered since 1992. She lives with her adult son in a terraced house in a residential area of Copnor, Portsmouth. All areas of the property are registered for childminding. There is a fully enclosed rear garden available for outdoor play. The childminder lives within walking distance of local shops, schools and parks. The family keep four dogs as pets.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children under eight years at any one time, of these no more than three may be in the early years age range. Currently five children in this age group are on roll. The childminder is also registered to provide overnight care for a maximum of two children under eight years at anyone time, of these no more than one may be in the early years age range. Care is also provided for children aged over five years. This provision is registered by Ofsted on the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register.

The childminder collects children from local schools and pre-schools. She also attends local community groups on a regular basis. The childminder is a member of the Portsmouth childminding network.

The childminder operates Monday to Friday from 07:00 to 18:00. Children's hours of attendance are able to be flexible within these times.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is good. Children thrive in a welcoming, happy home environment that is well-organised. The childminder's excellent knowledge of the children in her care ensures their welfare and learning needs are met. The rapport she has with parents, other agencies and Early Years Foundation Stage providers (EYFS) is exemplary and ensures all children's welfare needs are met and their learning progressed. All children are encouraged to recognise the needs of others and to treat each other with respect. The childminder continually reflects on her practice and has an accurate understanding of her strengths. She is able to highlight areas she wishes to improve; for example, she is planning to have restrictors fitted to the low-level windows in the conservatory. This will ensure they do not pose a hazard to children when they are opened to provide ventilation in hot weather.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- continue developing the recording of individual children's progress so it is clear to see the actual stage of learning and development they are at in all areas

The leadership and management of the early years provision

Children are cared for in a safe, secure environment. They are extremely well safeguarded. The childminder has a very clear understanding of the procedures to be followed should she have any concerns regarding individual children's well-being. Risk assessments carried out for the premises indoors, outdoors and for outings children are taken on are robust and regularly reviewed. This ensures children are kept safe and free from harm as all hazards they may be exposed to are identified and acted upon.

The childminder's ability to self-evaluate her own practice shows she has a strong commitment to developing aspects of the service provided. For example, since the last inspection she has attended various training courses provided by the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership to ensure her knowledge of legislative issues, child care and child development remains up-to-date. She has also ensured all adults living in the household have been suitably vetted and completed a relevant first aid course.

All required documentation to promote the welfare of children is in place. Policies and procedures the childminder works to are very well written and used very effectively to promote the welfare of all children; the childminder reviews them regularly, adapting them to take account of any legislative changes. Parents sign to acknowledge their agreement to the policies and procedures the childminder works to so they are aware of the care they can expect their children to receive. Systems for storing children's records ensure confidentiality.

The childminder establishes an excellent and highly effective working relationship with parents. The extensive information she obtains from them when children initially start at the setting ensures all their welfare needs are known, and their learning is continuously supported. Parents of younger children up to the age of 18 months receive written feedback on a daily basis about the care their children have been provided and what they have been doing. For older children this is exchanged verbally. The childminder discusses the progress children are making with parents. She invites them to share information of achievements they have noticed their children make at home or any interests they may have expressed. This information is then incorporated in the planning for their children's next steps.

The childminder is committed to ensuring all children and their families are made to feel welcome and part of the setting. She liaises with other agencies and attends meetings with them outside of her normal working hours. Through this she is able to ensure the welfare needs of all children in her care are known and that they receive the support they need to be able to make progress in their learning and development. In addition, the childminder is aware some children attend other EYFS providers and the effective systems she has in place for exchanging information ensures all children's learning is continuously supported.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The childminder's home is exceptionally well organised to allow all children to develop independence, both in their personal care and their choice of resources. Flexible daily routines allow them to experience a varied range of activities both in the home and the local community.

New children feel secure and settle well. The childminder encourages parents to make pre-visits to her home with their children so they can become familiar with the childminder's family and the environment in which they will be cared for. During such visits the childminder finds out from parents what stage of development they feel their children are at, any interests they may have and their individual care needs. The childminder then takes this information into account to ensure all children's welfare and learning needs are met.

The childminder has good knowledge of the stage of learning children are at; she carries out observations of children while they play and uses the information she gains to plan their next learning steps. Observations are often supported by photographs. However, because the childminder is currently developing a system to record the progress individual children are making, it is not clear to see from the documents available at this time the actual stage of learning they are at in all areas.

Children are able to make an informed choice of the activities they want to play with; toys are stored at a low level so they are able to access them safely and independently. Children have a good relationship with the childminder; they enjoy sitting with her to look at books and readily go to her for a cuddle when they are tired. The childminder's effective verbal interaction helps younger children develop their language and communication skills.

Children experience a variety of daily outings which supports their physical development and ensures they get plenty of fresh air. They walk to the local pond to feed the ducks and take a ball to play with at the parks. During warmer weather children go on picnics. Through regular outings to the local library children have the experience of listening to stories, and when they attend a childminder's 'come and play group' they learn how to socialise with others and join in with song time.

Themes children study while attending other EYFS providers are continued with the childminder. For example, children have had the experience of an outing to a local sea life centre, a trip to the beach to collect shells and made a scrap book of various pictures, all of which supported and extended their learning of things associated with water.

Children are beginning to learn about keeping themselves safe; they are introduced to road safety when on outings and they practise the procedures for evacuating the premises in an emergency. Children are fully protected from germs; equipment and resources are always thoroughly cleaned and they are consistently reminded to wash their hands prior to eating and after toileting. Younger children have their hands wiped by the childminder.

Children have regular access to drinks throughout the day and are beginning to develop their awareness of healthy eating. They have a choice of fresh fruit for snacks and if they have a meal provided by the childminder this includes vegetable, pasta and meat dishes. All of which are prepared using fresh ingredients.

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?	1
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?	1
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?	1
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.