

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	110690
Inspection date	05/03/2009
Inspector	Lynne Elizabeth Lewington
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 1985. She lives with her husband and adult daughter in a four-bedroom house in Tadley, Hampshire. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play at the front of the property. There is level access to the property and toilet facilities on the ground floor. Local parks, shops and schools are within easy walking distance.

The childminder works with her daughter, who is also a registered childminder. She is registered to care for a maximum of six children under eight years at any one time, when working alone. There are currently five children on roll in the early years age range; four older children are also cared for. When working with her daughter, they can care for up to nine children under eight years. The childminder collects and takes children to the local primary school. She attends local parent/toddler groups. The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register, and both the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register.

The childminder supports children with special educational needs. She is a qualified nursery nurse (NNEB) and is a member of the National Childminding Association (NCMA).

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall, the quality of the provision is good. Children are confident, relaxed and happy in this child-centred environment where they develop and learn as they play. Good care is taken to adapt the service offered to ensure children's individual needs are understood and met appropriately. Recommendations from the last inspection have been implemented and the provider has enthusiastically embraced the Early Years Foundation Stage in order to improve the service she offers to young children and their families, indicating good prospects of continuous improvement.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- continue to develop systems to record children's progress and development
- further develop children's opportunities to learn about our diverse society

The leadership and management of the early years provision

Comprehensive measures are taken to ensure children's safety and welfare is maintained at all times. Risk assessments are undertaken formally and informally of every activity the children undertake both indoors and in the local community taking into account children's developing skills. The childminder is knowledgeable

about child protection and the action she would take if she was concerned about a child in her care. Children are learning about safe behaviour as they play and when they go on outings in the local community. Good health is promoted through the hygienic environment and the simple routines children follow to prevent the spread of germs. Drinks are freely available preventing dehydration and healthy eating is encouraged.

Positive relationships develop with parents through planned settling-in routines. Daily informative communication ensures that children's needs and requirements are fully understood. The policies also enable parents to understand how the childminder works.

The childminder has undertaken a comprehensive self-evaluation of the service she offers and has a clear awareness of her strengths and areas for further development. In order to continuously improve her knowledge, she attends courses and reads relevant literature. All the required documentation to meet the requirements of registration are maintained appropriately.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children undertake a broad range of interesting activities. In order for children to develop their abilities to make choices in the play activities they undertake, the childminder has created a catalogue of toys and activities with pictures of the children playing. Children enjoy using this resource. It is also a tool encouraging language and memory as the children recognise themselves and others.

Children demonstrate increasing ability to use language to make their needs understood and give direction as they play games with the childminder. They enjoy stories and songs and have opportunities to use pencils and crayons to draw and make marks. They count and learn about size, shape and position as they use the puzzles, construction toys and cars. Daily outings to the park or outside play area enable children to develop their physical skills as they use the play apparatus and learn about the world around them. They look at and experience the weather, increasing their awareness of the changing seasons. These outdoor experiences also help children to develop their senses. Painting, play dough, cooking and dressing up activities encourage their creative development. Children's developing independence is evident as they make choices in their play. They enjoy making their own choices and undertaking activities planned by the childminder. Children are developing their skills at attending to their own personal needs under the supervision of the caring childminder, who encourages and also recognises that sometimes they need a little help. Through playing games, the children are learning to take turns, share and respect others ideas. Observations of the children indicate the children's activity and highlight particular aspects of their progress. They are beginning to be used to identify the next steps in children's learning.

Consistent boundaries provide a secure base for children to develop their understanding of appropriate behaviour. The childminder sets a good example to the children and consequently they behave well, showing care and consideration for others. Limited opportunities to learn about our diverse society are encouraged

through visits to the local parks, library and occasionally a toddler group enabling children to meet other people.

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
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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.