

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	121735
Inspection date	18/03/2009
Inspector	Debbie Molly O'Callaghan
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 1996. She is registered to look after six children under the age of eight years. There are currently six children on roll in the early years age range. The childminder lives with her husband and three sons, in a residential road in Caterham, close to local shops, park and schools.

Minded children have access to the ground floor play room with toilet facilities in this area. The lounge room and study are used for sleeping children, but not generally used for play space. The enclosed garden area consists of a patio and a large grassed area. The family have a dog and guinea pigs.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is good. Children are well cared for by a conscientious childminder whose great strength is the way she plans high quality activities to support children's learning and development and to meet their individual needs. She works closely with parents to ensure all are fully included. She ensures children are kept safe and has all systems in place to support good care. She has begun to use a system of self-evaluation and this has helped her to identify areas she wishes to strengthen by attending further training. Her capacity to maintain continuous improvement is good.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- carry out a full risk assessment for each type of outing
- continue to develop observation and planning for children's next steps

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder is aware of each child's stage of development when they start, through the information obtained from parents on admission. She is beginning to complete learning journals and take photographs of children participating in activities; however, as the current system is in its early stages it does not always fully plan for the next steps in their learning.

Parents are provided with clear records of their children's progress and the activities they have enjoyed. These records enable parents to reinforce and support their progress at home. The childminder talks to other providers attended by the children in her care, for example, the pre-school they attend. Children's individual needs are well met due to the positive relationships the childminder forms with parents. Consequently children are very relaxed and independent within their play.

All required documentation, such as the attendance records, children's personal details and accident and medication books, is in place, maintained and kept securely. The childminder ensures that all documentation and consents are in place to enable her to respond appropriately in an emergency.

Children are kept very safe whilst at the childminder's and she helps them to learn about staying safe, for example, they talk about road safety, read stories about "Stranger Danger" and children have enjoyed a visit from the fire brigade. They are further protected as she has a secure understanding of the child protection procedures and has up to date guidance to refer to in the event of having a concern.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children are making very good progress towards the early learning goals in all areas of learning. This is evidenced by some up to date observations she makes. Children are eager to engage with the activities on offer, they are very happy and settled, the childminder interacts with them constantly, encouraging them to think about their activity and to work out and solve problems, such as how a puzzle fits together, fitting shapes into the shape sorter and threading beads. When at home children play in a dedicated playroom decorated with their art work and colourful wall posters, where they access their playthings easily and safely. They have access to a variety of role-play equipment, which helps them to make connections with real life situations. They have their clear favourites and are very confident as they explore the role play area and build with construction toys. They use and enjoy books, the childminder sits with the children and they enjoy listening to the stories they have chosen.

Children enjoy painting on wooden picture frames as presents for their mums for Mother's Day, they choose their colours and decorate them to their choice, they are given time to complete the activity and praised for their achievements. Children are learning to take turns as they look at a farm book, matching the animal noises to the picture; they enjoy this activity, supported by the childminder.

The childminder makes positive use of the local community and younger children regularly visit toddler groups and meet with other childminders, where they have opportunities to interact with other children and adults, thus promoting their social development. Children develop an awareness of respecting the needs of others as they see positive images of diversity reflected in books, wall posters and play materials.

The childminder promotes children's good health by encouraging healthy eating. They enjoy healthy snacks of fruit and freshly prepared meals. She has prepared a written menu for parents which the older children help to plan. Children enjoy outdoor play and access a range of mobile equipment, such as tricycles, child size cars and push-along toys.

Children are well cared for in the event of having an accident as the childminder is qualified in first aid and has all systems in place to respond promptly. Children

learn how to protect themselves from germs as they use liquid soap and paper towels and this protects them from the risk of cross infection. They are kept safe in the home as the premises are secure. The childminder has conducted risk assessments, which are regularly reviewed and updated, on all areas of the home and garden. However, she has not undertaken risk assessments of outings.

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?	1
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.