

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	111130
Inspection date	27/01/2009
Inspector	Anne Gunston

Type of setting	Childminder
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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 1990. She is registered on the Early Years Register and both the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register to care for a total of six children under eight years. At present, the childminder cares for three in the early years age range and three children of school age. The childminder lives with her adult son in a house in Waterlooville, Hampshire. The home is within walking distance of local shops, schools and parks. The childminder uses the ground floor of the home for childminding; this is completely accessible. There are no family pets. There is a secure garden for outside play. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Children are making exceptional progress in their learning and development as the childminder completes rigorous monitoring and self-evaluation of all aspects of her practice. She sustains continual improvement in the service she provides and offers an inclusive, supportive environment where every child is welcomed. The childminder develops effective relationships with parents and all others who are involved with the children, ensuring that each child's progress across all outcomes is consistently good.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- ensuring that arrangements for dealing with medical emergencies are confirmed with parents of all children.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

Children are cared for in an extremely safe, secure environment, which the childminder prepares thoroughly in readiness for their arrival. The childminder is committed to offering a professional service and maintains her ratios at all times, to provide children with high levels of support. She is confident in her safeguarding role and has secure knowledge of the procedures to follow should she have concerns about a child in her care. The childminder takes complete responsibility for the children at all times and never leaves them with anyone who is not vetted. The childminder is very well organised in terms of the documentation and policies she has in place, all of which support efficient management of her provision. She is proactive in completing training to continually improve her skills and sought training at an early stage to prepare her for the implementation of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). All policies and working documents reflect this framework. Children benefit from the childminder's willingness to involve and

include parents in their child's learning and development. The childminder works in a completely open, supportive manner with parents and shares all records and policies with them at very regular intervals; she ensures that any changes that may affect the service she provides are highlighted. The records used to promote children's welfare are thorough and maintain confidentiality. Although some parents have yet to give written consent for their children to receive emergency medical treatment, as requested by the childminder. The childminder values each child as an individual; she recognises that each one has particular characteristics and needs. By discussion with parents and collaborative working with other professionals, the childminder overcomes any barriers to children's achievement. References from parents show they really value her warmth and sincerity, reliability and approachable attitude, which supports their care of the children and ensures consistency. Children describe how they have 'so much fun and are never bored'.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children flourish in the childminder's care as she demonstrates genuine enjoyment and pleasure in her childminding role. They are confident in making decisions about activities because they know that the childminder supports the choice they make, whilst monitoring that these are appropriate and provide well-balanced experiences. The childminder listens to children's requests; her flexible planning allows children to play and build on their own experiences. Children also enjoy well-planned activities, which the childminder leads, incorporating all areas of learning. The childminder is skilled at using every day opportunities to increase children's knowledge and prepare them well for the future. For example, children learn to identify letters of the alphabet on trips to the local bank. They become familiar with numbers counting cars on walks or when playing snakes and ladders. The childminder is very skilled at questioning children at all times, encouraging them to think and solve simple problems.

Children are gaining great enjoyment from books and love to read their favourites with the childminder. They value this opportunity as the childminder reads stories in an animated manner, giving children the confidence to express themselves as well. Children happily join in with the story; when they attempt to read the childminder is always positive if she needs to correct pronunciation. Children receive a great deal of praise and encouragement for any achievement; they are keen to try new tasks and become completely independent. For example, older children take themselves to the toilet saying they do not need any help from the childminder. They are learning very good hygiene habits, such as cleaning teeth regularly. Children receive nourishing meals and snacks when in the childminder's care, as she works closely with parents to meet each child's dietary needs. She plans menus in advance and displays these for parents; meals are well balanced and cooked using fresh ingredients. The childminder uses fun activities, such as creating individual place mats using pictures of healthy foods cut from magazines; this involves the children and promotes their understanding of the importance of healthy eating.

The childminder manages children's behaviour in a calm, gentle manner but has

high expectations concerning politeness and consideration. She encourages children to use 'please' and 'thank you' at all times; children are well behaved and show thought for others. They know they can depend on the childminder who provides high levels of reassurance and encourages children to express their feelings and emotions in a positive way. Children can choose to use the 'How Do You Feel Today' board to describe their mood; the childminder provides simple visual symbols so even the youngest can be included in this.

Children's welfare is a high priority for the childminder; she completes comprehensive assessments of all areas of the home and the outings that children enjoy to minimise the risk of harm. Children take part in regular evacuation from the home, preparing them well to deal with emergency situations. The childminder keeps her property very secure and takes many precautions to ensure children's safety. Any caller to the home must sign the visitors' book; the use of safety gates throughout the home ensures that children are always closely supervised.

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.