

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	131249
Inspection date	23/01/2009
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 1989. She lives with her husband and adult child on the east side of the city of Southampton. All areas of the property are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to provide care for a maximum of six children under eight years at any one time. At present the childminder cares for two children in the early years age group, as well as two older children. The childminder walks to local shops, pre-schools and schools. The family have a dog and a cat.

The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register, and on the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The childminder has a warm and close relationship with children who are happy and relaxed in her care. She recognises that every child is unique and treats them as individuals. The childminder endeavours to continuously improve her provision by keeping her training up-to-date and taking on board new ways of working. She takes into account recommendations made through inspection.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- improve the system for seeking information from parents about the children's development as a starting point for their learning journey

The leadership and management of the early years provision

Children are safeguarded as the childminder has a child protection policy and is fully aware of her duty to protect children. Through the good use of self-evaluation the childminder has targeted future training requirements and improvements in safeguarding to ensure all information is up-to-date. The childminder has prepared individual folders for each child with their own paperwork, contracts and permission forms and this ensures all documentation is available when required.

Partnership with parents is sound and the childminder ensures she gets to know the family well. Parents are kept informed about their children through daily verbal feedback as well as planned meetings. The childminder has regular meetings with parents to discuss children's progress and share the records of her observations and plan future learning. The childminder keeps good, clear records of the children's personal learning journey in their own 'Special Book'. She has shared these records with parents and they appreciate the value of the documentation.

Children's starting points for learning are sometimes difficult to establish as parents have not completed documentation about their 'Unique child' as requested. Parents complete evaluation forms for the childminder, which helps to target improvements and also praise the care provided.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children enjoy being with the childminder and achieve continuous development as she provides a choice of suitable activities. The childminder is well aware of children's stages of development through ongoing observations and linking with parents. She provides a good choice of toys around the room. Children particularly enjoy imaginative play with the dolls and shopping bags. They pretend to go shopping with a doll in a push chair and a bag. The children find a large carrier bag, which is used to store more dolls. They struggle to manage it, but they insist on carrying it to the other end of the room. They set out some dolls for a picnic and the childminder provides the tea set. The childminder encourages the children to extend the game and pretend to cook some food for the dolls. The childminder talks to the children constantly to help to develop language skills. She asks 'Is that the dolly's dinner?' and 'We need a bigger blanket for all the dolly's don't we?' The childminder skilfully uses the play food to encourage children to name different foods including cheese, carrot, peas and potato. Children are also encouraged to name different areas of their body during nappy changes, such as feet, nose, eyes and hair.

Children are safe as the childminder ensures hygienic procedures are followed at all times. Individual hand drying towels and flannels are provided. Everything around the home is safe and secure and risk assessments are completed. Parents sign records of medication administered and accidents as necessary. The childminder keeps her first aid training up-to-date. Children have regular drinks and healthy snacks of fruit. Parents provide lunches for younger children and the childminder supports independence by encouraging children to feed themselves.

Children generally behave well. They are encouraged to use good manners and be respectful. All children are valued and respected. The childminder helps children communicate their thoughts, feelings and ideas and to develop relationships with others. Children are engaged in conversation and have opportunities to solve problems.

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.