

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY292118
Inspection date	10/03/2009
Inspector	Catherine Hill
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 2004. She lives and works with her husband, who is also a registered childminder, in Camberley, Surrey. They have three children aged 20, 16 and 13 years and the eldest son occasionally works as an assistant to the childminder. The ground floor is mainly used for childminding with sleeping facilities upstairs. There is a garden available for outside play. Local parks, shops and schools are within walking distance. The family has four cats.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children under eight years at any one time, of whom no more than three may be in the early years age range. She is currently minding four children in this age group at various times during the week. She also offers care to children aged five years to 11 years. This provision is registered by Ofsted on the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is good. The childminder provides an inclusive environment for children's care and learning. She has a good understanding of their individual needs and children are very happy and settled in her care and have good opportunities to develop their skills. The childminder is well organised and most documentation is detailed and appropriately maintained to support her practice. She has made some improvements to her practice since her last inspection but has not identified plans for future development.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- develop self-evaluation systems, for example, by using the Ofsted self-evaluation form as the basis for an ongoing review of practice
- further develop systems to monitor children's progress and achievements and use the information to identify, and plan for, their next steps in development
- further improve documentation by updating the complaints procedure to include Ofsted's contact address and to explain in more detail the procedure for dealing with written complaints
- further improve safeguarding procedures by ensuring suitability checks are in place for all household members aged 16 or over.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder organises her time effectively to ensure children have daily opportunities for play and learning both within and outside the home. For example, they visit the local toddler group, where they develop their social skills, and play with small world toys at home, thereby developing their creative skills. The

childminder has excellent relationships with children and treats them all with equal concern. She has established good relationships with parents and shares both written and verbal information with them about both her practice and their child's minded day. Parents appreciate the childminder's flexibility and the loving, secure environment provided for their children. They confirm that their children enjoy themselves in her care and are provided with variety in their daily routine.

Children are well supervised and their welfare is safeguarded by the childminder who has been proactive in attending safeguarding training and implementing written policies to support her practice. Suitability checks are held for most household members but not all instigated checks have been followed through to ensure they are in place for all aged 16 or over. The childminder attends relevant training courses to update her knowledge and skills. She has, for example, attended training related to planning and assessment, persona dolls and Makaton. She has a good understanding of her role and provides a happy, welcoming and safe home environment for children. The childminder has partially addressed a recommendation made at her previous inspection relating to implementing a complaints procedure and maintains records of fire safety checks, but has no system in place to evaluate and monitor her whole practice.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children learn how to keep themselves safe at the childminder's as they take part in regular recorded fire drills. The childminder is vigilant to safety and securely straps children in high chairs to have their lunch. Sleeping children are checked regularly and safety gates used, as appropriate, within the minding areas. The childminder's policies and procedures help keep children safe from illness and infection. Children wash their hands before they eat and the childminder cleans surfaces with antibacterial spray. She works in partnership with parents to meet children's dietary needs.

Children's behaviour is excellent. They are well occupied and allowed to follow their own interests, sensitively supported by the childminder. Older children show kindness to those younger than them as they bring them age-appropriate toys to play with. Children make good progress in their learning as the childminder has a good understanding of their abilities and next steps in learning. She has started to maintain planning and assessment records but recognises these need further developing to clearly track children's progress in relation to the different early learning areas. Children play contentedly and enjoy the interest taken in them by the childminder. They show good hand-eye coordination as they catch a bean bag gently thrown to them by the childminder. The childminder shows children how they can balance a bean bag on their head. Young children observe intently and then try and put a bean bag on their own head to balance. They have fun and chat easily as they play. They play with interactive toys and babies excitedly move their legs as they hear music play.

Picture/word labels on toy drawers help develop children's awareness of print carrying meaning. Children independently choose what they wish to play with and get out puzzles to complete and books to share. The childminder provides children

with a balance of adult-led and child-initiated play and activities. For example, with other local childminders she organised a visit from the fire service so children could see a fire engine and talk to the fire-fighters. She recognises when children's play needs extending and challenges children, for example, to build a tower using only yellow building blocks.

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.	3

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?	3
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

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.