

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	112843
Inspection date	14/01/2009
Inspector	Doreen Forsyth

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 was registered in 1999. She lives with her husband and four adult daughters in a detached home in the village of Laverstoke, near Whitchurch in Hampshire. All of the home may be used for childcare. There are large enclosed gardens at the front and rear of the home which are used for children's outside play.

The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and both the voluntary and compulsory parts of the Childcare Register. She may care for up to six children under the age of eight, of whom three may be in the early years age group. When an assistant is present the childminder may care for up to ten children under the age of eight, of whom six may be in the early years age group. Currently there are ten children on roll, aged between eighteen months and six years old.

The childminder welcomes children that have learning difficulties or disabilities. She is a member of the National Childminding Association and of the local Childminding Network. The family keeps pet tortoises.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The provision offered by the childminder is highly effective in ensuring all children make consistently good progress in their learning and development and that their welfare is extremely well promoted. The provision for children's physical and emotional well-being is excellent. The childminder efficiently supports every child that is cared for, making sure no individual child is disadvantaged. She works very closely with parents to ensure children's needs are met and their protection is assured. Very effective self-evaluation systems are used to ensure improvement is constantly reviewed and maintained.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- include parents in the initial assessments you make on children's capabilities so that they can add information about their learning at home
- explore ways to enable children to more freely access fresh drinking water.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The very good maintenance of all the necessary records, policies and procedures that are required for the safe and efficient management of the provision ensure that children's needs are well met and their well-being is very well promoted. The childminder is very well qualified. She continually attends further training to extend and enhance her skills and knowledge. All adults in the household that have

contact with the children have been appropriately vetted. The childminder and her assistants have up-to-date first aid qualifications.

The childminder has used comprehensive risk assessments to ensure any hazards in her home and garden are quickly identified and minimised. For example, children are taught how to safely negotiate the two steps to the kitchen, and a safety gate is used to prevent access to the stairs. The childminder ensures that all children are very well safeguarded. The childminder and her assistants know and understand current child protection issues and procedures and the actions they would take if they had any concerns.

Children's well-being is very well promoted by the strong partnership the childminder has with parents. Parents have copies of all policies and procedures, including the complaints procedures, in a parent pack. The parents of younger children use daily diaries in which they share information about the children's progress. There is a parents' notice board and newsletters. Parents regularly discuss their children's progress and can contribute towards the individual planning. The childminder is building links with the children's other providers. The childminder uses questionnaires to obtain parents' views on the provision.

The childminder has exceptionally high aspirations for the quality of her service. She evaluates and monitors the provision she offers, clearly identifying any targets for future improvement. She is a member of an accredited childminding network and values the support and advice of the network coordinator; she links with other childminders and endeavours to keep fully aware of any changes in the regulations and in early childhood education.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children's learning and development is exceptionally well promoted by the childminder and her assistants. This ensures all children, including those that may have learning difficulties or disabilities, make significant gains in their learning and have consistently good levels of achievement. Children play very happily in the well planned play rooms; they develop their creativity in role play activities, and when dancing and singing, drawing and painting. They enjoy well read stories and are developing their confidence in speaking to each other and to the adults present.

The childminder plans many exciting and worthwhile activities both indoors and in the large, challenging and well resourced gardens. During the inspection the children enjoyed making bird cakes and discussing what birds like to eat and which birds might eat the food. The childminder observes and records the children's progress. She knows the children in her care extremely well. She identifies and records where the children are in their learning and, with her assistants, plans a suitable next step for them using the different aspects of the early learning goals. When children first arrive and have settled in, she assesses where they are in their learning so she can help them progress appropriately. However, parents do not contribute to these observations or have opportunities to share what they know about their children's learning at home until later in the assessment process. Children have many opportunities to meet with other adults and children and to

explore their environment. They enjoy taking part in a weekly music session at the childminder's home that other local childminders and children attend. They go for walks in the countryside around the village and often attend a soft play centre and toddler group.

Children's health and welfare are promoted very effectively. Children have good opportunities to play outside in the fresh air and develop their physical skills in the exciting woodland areas of the gardens. They are provided with well balanced and healthy snacks and meals which are home-cooked and very nutritious. There are regular opportunities for children to have a drink, but they cannot freely access drinking water if they feel thirsty. Children are able to rest and sleep according to their needs. The childminder takes all necessary steps to prevent the spread of infection and she takes appropriate action if children become unwell. Children learn very well about keeping safe and considering the needs of others. They behave exceptionally well and quickly learn the rules and routines of the setting, such as washing their hands before eating and helping to tidy up. The setting is very well resourced, and the play rooms are organised so that children can independently choose what they wish to play with. The good labelling encourages the children's reading and writing skills.

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?	2
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?	2
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.