

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	113225
Inspection date	19/01/2009
Inspector	Michelle Ann Parham
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 registered in 1992 and lives with her three older children in a residential area of Denmead in Hampshire. The property is accessible as toileting facilities are situated on the ground floor. The ground floor only is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The family have cats as pets and chickens in the rear garden. The childminder is registered to provide care for six children aged under eight years. There are currently six children on roll of which three are in the early years age range. The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and on the voluntary and compulsory parts of the Childcare Register. The childminder is a member of a local childminding group.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The needs of the children are routinely met as the childminder recognises that all children are unique and individual and therefore promotes inclusive practice. Children make satisfactory progress in their learning and development and welfare is adequately promoted. Informal monitoring occurs and the childminder improves practice by attending some training and taking account of most 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:

- update relevant policy to include action to take if an allegation is made against the childminder or a family member and extend knowledge and understanding of safeguarding children to ensure their welfare
- extend observations to record what children are learning and to identify next steps, include evaluation to ensure learning outcomes are achieved and children make progress
- extend information gathered about children's starting points to ensure sufficient challenge and stimulation for their learning and development and ensure records of assessment are completed to show progress children make
- ensure safety of glass in kitchen door, spindles on staircase and security of rear garden to safeguard children
- improve systems to self evaluate practice and monitor outcomes for children to ensure continuous improvement.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder has taken positive steps to implement the Early Years Foundation Stage however observations and assessments are at present basic and do not identify targets and next steps. Children make satisfactory progress in learning. Some information is gathered about children's starting points, however this does

not include level of knowledge and development which would ensure sufficient challenge and stimulation is immediately offered. Informal monitoring occurs but does not include evaluation of activities to ensure learning outcomes are met or formal self-evaluation to highlight strengths and areas for improvement. A range of policies are shared with the parents to support practice and information is shared verbally and by diary for babies on a daily basis. The childminder is aware of the importance of links with others connected to the child. She has a valid first aid certificate ensuring children are treated effectively and efficiently in the event of ill health or an accident. The childminder has an understanding of signs and symptoms which may cause concern but is unsure of correct procedures to report issues and record existing injuries. Most dangers have been identified through risk assessment and minimised however some hazards still remain in regard to security and safety.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children are happy and settled in a homely, caring environment, where they are encouraged to be independent in their choice of play. They experience a wide range of activities both indoors and outdoors and for example enjoy interesting outings to Intec Science Museum, Langstone Harbour and nature area and to Portchester Castle. Children discover the delights of growing fruits and vegetables in the garden and learn about foods that are good for them as they go to Funtingdon to pick fruits. They learn how to care for animals as the childminder has chickens in the garden and have even experienced the wonder of having a chick hatch. These worthwhile experiences help children learn about growing and extend their knowledge and understanding of the world. Through use of letter blocks children recognise their own name and also compare and count. Children have plenty of opportunities to extend their imagination through the wealth of small world play and dressing up clothes such as an authentic postal uniform and Chinese and African clothes. Children are able to pursue their own interests for example a child who likes to look at maps is provided with large maps and a book, this encourages learning and for children to build on what they know and like.

Children develop understanding and useful skills for the future as they access the computer for games such as Pingu matching or as they search for further information on subjects. They have access to interactive toys such as cash tills, wind up lanterns and telescopes which foster investigation and understanding of how things work. Children benefit from a wealth of play resources which promote a balanced curriculum for learning and development. Behaviour is good with expectations explained through simple house rules in word and picture format so all children can understand and help keep themselves and others safe. Positive methods are used to manage behaviour with the childminder using lots of praise and encouragement. Children learn to respect diversity through positive images in resources and discussion which helps to foster self-esteem and understanding of the wider world.

Children begin to understand healthy lifestyles as the childminder promotes healthy eating with snacks such as fresh fruit and warm crumpets or toast and an occasional sweet biscuits. Regular drinks are provided and accessible throughout

the day. Children have a separate towel provided to prevent the spread of infection and posters to remind them to wash their hands regularly, anti-bacterial hand gel is also used to promote sound hygiene practice.

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?	3
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	3
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?	3
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?	3
How well are children safeguarded?	3

Quality and standards

How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?	3
How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?	3
How well are children helped to stay safe?	3
How well are children helped to be healthy?	3
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	3
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	3
How well are children helped develop skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being?	3

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.