

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY220795
Inspection date	15/06/2009
Inspector	Linda Patricia Coccia
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 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 2002. She lives with her husband and three children aged 10 years, seven years and four years in a house in Minster, Sheerness, Kent. There are two steps to access the front of the premises. There are local shops, parks, schools, and pre-schools all within walking distance. All areas of the property are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outdoor play.

She is registered to provide care for four children under eight years; of these, not more than two may be in the early years age range. The childminder is also registered on the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. She is currently minding six children between the ages of two and 11 years, three of whom come under the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). The family have a pet dog, a hamster, some stick insects and a goldfish. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the provision is good. The childminder effectively meets children's needs, particularly in those areas of developmental milestones, such as, potty training. Her inclusive practice ensures that all children are treated as individuals and she pays particular attention to their dietary and health needs. She maintains continuous improvement as she constantly evaluates the toys and activities to ensure children are occupied and enjoying themselves.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- provide opportunities for parents to comment on the childminder's service

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder manages her provision well. She is organised both in her daily routines and with her paperwork. She ensures that any adults the children have contact with are suitable. All adults in the household are fully vetted. The childminder has recently updated her knowledge of local childcare procedures by attending a safeguarding children course. Parents are fully apprised of her child protection procedures. The childminder ensures that children are kept physically safe both on and off the premises through the use of appropriate safety equipment, such as, the use of reins when out walking and stair gates indoors. The toys are regularly checked for hazards and are kept clean and safe.

The childminder meets regularly with other childminders to discuss her childcare practice as well as to introduce children to other children to learn to socialise.

Through these meetings and attending some courses and workshops the childminder has been able to evaluate some aspects of her provision and has made any necessary adjustments. However, she has not offered parents the opportunity to take part in her evaluations. The childminder works towards good partnership with parents. She regularly reviews their written contracts, provides individual copies of all her policies and procedures and has productive daily discussions with them about the care of their children. She has also provided all parents with a copy of the Ofsted poster about how to make a complaint. She is confident that parents would approach her first if they had any concerns to discuss. Most of the families that the childminder caters for have been with her for a number of years which indicates that they are happy with the care being offered.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The childminder has a good understanding of the EYFS and has made good progress with the development of her observation and planning systems. She has lots of photographic evidence of children participating in different activities, covering the six areas of learning, which she assesses to determine the children's individual next steps. She plans activities around these assessments to ensure she offers children individual challenges to help them progress. Children have plenty of space to play in and can choose the activities they want to use. They can easily access most of them. The youngest minded child, aged two years, ably operates musical equipment to allow dancing and singing and is very proud of their hand print paintings and is beginning to identify colours. All children have access to a good range of books and puzzles which allows them to develop their literary and spatial awareness skills. The childminder ensures children use a wide range of physical activities to enable children to stay fit and healthy. They use equipment both in the garden and whilst visiting toddler groups and the local parks.

The childminder pays particular attention to children's individual health and well being. She has good procedures for dealing with sick children and is fully aware of the medication and accident recording procedures. Her records are all very well maintained. Children have choices about what they eat and drink. As the childminder provides all meals, she gives children choices of cereals and snacks. Children decide between them what they would like for dinner and the childminder ensures there are healthy foods within their choices. The childminder uses different behaviour management strategies for each child following discussions with their parents. For example, one parents uses a naughty step. The childminder has adapted this to a 'thinking cushion'. Children really enjoy their time with the childminder. This is reflected in their happy smiling faces and their body language shows they are very much at home in their surroundings.

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?	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

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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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