

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	111001
Inspection date	11/03/2009
Inspector	Lynne Elizabeth Lewington
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 1988. She lives with her husband and two adult children in Hatch Warren, Basingstoke, Hampshire. Minded children have the use of the ground floor rooms, and two bedrooms for sleeping. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play, level access to the premises and toilet facilities on the ground floor. Local facilities, including a school, pre-school, parks and shops are within walking distance. The family has a pet dog.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children. Currently she is minding two children in the early years age range. The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and both the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. She can take and collect children from the local school and attends local children's activities.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is good. Children experience a broad range of age appropriate interesting activities which encourage and stimulate their learning and understanding. Positive steps, such as good communication with parents and information sharing help to ensure children's individual needs and requirements are understood and met. Children benefit from the childminder's enthusiastic, continuous interest and dedication to her role. She is proactive and seeks to continuously develop the quality of the service she provides for the benefit of the children in her care.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- encourage children to help to promote a safe environment by helping to put away their toys and resources
- continue to develop ability to observe, evaluate and plan for the next steps in children's learning

The leadership and management of the early years provision

Excellent steps are taken to ensure parents are fully informed of the service offered through policies, newsletters, a notice board and face to face daily contact. Parents' views of the service are sought on a regular basis and improvements made where required. Regular written observations of the children and a daily diary help to ensure parents are kept well informed of their child's activity and progress.

Self-evaluation is comprehensive. The childminder has clear ideas of how she would like to develop her service for the benefit of the young children in her care.

For example, through extending resources and attending training opportunities.

Children are safeguarded well. The childminder has a good awareness of the signs and symptoms of child abuse and the action she would take if she was concerned about a child in her care. Sensible measures are in place throughout the well maintained premises to ensure children can play safely. Comprehensive risk assessments are undertaken and evacuation procedures are practised. Children learn appropriate routines on outings to promote their safety. However, they do not currently participate in packing away their toys. This can create tripping hazards and a lack of appreciation for the value of the toys.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children's good health is promoted effectively in this clean, hygienic environment, where children demonstrate a sensible awareness of positive hygiene routines as they prepare for snacks and use tissues independently. Drinks are freely available throughout the day ensuring children do not become dehydrated. The variety of activities including opportunities for quiet rest and relaxation ensure that all children have a varied and satisfying day.

Children have access to good quality resources which reflect a modern diverse society. Outings in the local community provide opportunities to meet with other adults and children and enable them to develop their social skills and awareness of the wider world. Creative activities enable the children to experiment with colours and make patterns as they paint and create collage pictures. Children sort items and develop an awareness of shape and size as they play with a variety of toys and equipment. For example, a young child collects many small items and places them carefully one by one in a bag, when the bag is full she empties it and repeats the activity. This simple, spontaneous activity encourages an awareness of quantity, shape and position and required a level of physical coordination. Children enjoy using pencils, crayons and chalks to make marks and they are developing an awareness of the written word as they enjoy both fact and fiction books. Children confidently sing songs and converse with the childminder demonstrating their increasing vocabulary and confidence.

The childminder is aware of the children's likes and dislikes and is able to plan activities that provide children with a variety of experiences. She makes observations of the children and is beginning to use these to identify and plan for the next steps in their learning.

The childminder supervises the children closely but also enables them to make their own choices. She sits with them as they undertake activities and offers a helping hand if required. Children benefit from this interaction as they create their own play at a level suitable to their individual needs. Regular meaningful praise and encouragement encourage children in their activity and build self-esteem.

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.	1

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?	1
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?	1
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.