

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY313424
Inspection date	25/02/2009
Inspector	Anne Mitchell
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 2005. She lives with her husband and two children, in the Swaythling area of Southampton. All areas of the property are used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed rear garden available for outside play. The family have a cat.

The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register, as well as the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. A maximum of five children under the age of eight may attend at any one time. There are currently six children in the early years age group on roll. The childminder also cares for children over eight.

The childminder walks or drives to local schools to take and collect children, and attends the local toddler groups. The childminder is a member of both the National and the Southampton Childminding Associations. She holds a National Vocational Qualification at Level 3 in Children's Care, Learning and Development.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The overall quality of the provision is good. The childminder knows the children well through the completion of the 'Unique Child' records, completed by parents. Consequently, their individual needs are met.

Children are making good progress in most areas of learning, and have developed strong relationships with the childminder and with each other. The childminder has clear systems in place to monitor and evaluate her provision and promote positive outcomes for children.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- continue to promote children's language and communication through a variety of planned and spontaneous activities
- continue to promote children's health and safety through encouraging them to sit together while eating.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder has developed a comprehensive range of written policies and procedures that reflect her practice and support children's welfare. These are shared with parents and carers from the outset. All required documentation is effectively maintained, and is clear and up to date. Risk assessments are in place and are reviewed regularly to ensure children are safe indoors, in the garden and on outings.

The childminder demonstrates a commitment to improving outcomes for children through ongoing training. She has completed regular training since registration, including a National Vocational Qualification at Level 3 in Children's Care, Learning and Development.

There are secure systems in place to monitor and evaluate the childminder's practice, and she demonstrates positive attitude to continuous improvement. She has developed 'Customer Service' reviews so parents can contribute to the evaluation process. Additional suggestions for improvements are discussed with individual parents and carers to determine how best to move forward. The childminder works in close partnership with parents and carers through a regular review of children's observations and developmental records. Informal verbal discussion is provided on a daily basis. A comprehensive parents' notice board provides a range of useful information about childcare issues.

The childminder has completed training in safeguarding children and has a secure knowledge and understanding of procedures to follow. Consequently children are well protected from harm and neglect.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The children enjoy a good level of interaction and support from the childminder, although at times some areas of children's communication and language does not have sufficient focus. Low level storage enables children to choose resources independently and provides them with clear choices in their play. The childminder has developed a range of 'treasure boxes' for younger children to explore which include natural resources and a range of different textures. The childminder uses open ended questions such as 'What sound does it make? Will that one fit in there?' to help children solve problems and think for themselves. Less confident children are gently encouraged to explore the resources. As they become more confident and start to explore alone, the childminder withdraws, allowing them to play independently. Children play well together and learn to take turns. They use a variety of tools such as pens, markers and crayons to draw, make marks and learn early writing skills. Each child has their own developmental record including regular observations and photographs. This provides a clear picture of children's progress and is shared effectively with parents and carers.

Children's health and welfare is well supported. For example, they use individual hand towels to dry their hands, limiting the spread of infection. They wash their hands before snack, and the childminder gives a clear explanation of the importance of good hand hygiene. Parents and the childminder share responsibility for the provision of food and snacks, which are balanced and healthy. However, children are not always encouraged to sit while they eat. Children enjoy daily opportunities for fresh air and exercise on walks, trips to local parks, and garden play. Regular risk assessments ensure that all areas are safe for children. They learn about keeping safe as the childminder reminds them to pick up toys after use so they won't hurt themselves. Reinforcement on walks to and from school helps children learn about road safety.

Children's behaviour is good and the childminder uses lots of positive interaction and praise. She uses positive gestures, such as clapping and smiling, to encourage good behaviour in younger children.

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?	2
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
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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 that required action to be taken 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.