

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY377818
Inspection date	23/02/2009
Inspector	Carol Newman
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 2008. She lives with her partner and two pre-school aged children in Tadworth in the Borough of Reigate and Banstead. The whole of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outdoor play. Local facilities include the town centre, schools, parks and the library. The childminder has a dog.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children under eight years. She is currently caring for four children aged from 18 months to 10 years, who all attend on a part-time basis. Only one child is in the early years age range. The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and the voluntary and compulsory parts of the Childcare Register. There are no accessibility issues.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is good. The childminder provides a welcoming environment where all children are encouraged to feel part of the family. Children play happily and make very good progress in this effective childminding provision, where the individual needs of each and every child are successfully met. The childminder regularly evaluates her provision to ensure all children thrive and develop throughout their time with the childminder. The childminder clearly enjoys her time with the children and is fully committed to their welfare.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- continue to develop the planning of activities to ensure equal importance is given to all areas of learning to support a rounded approach to child development.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder is guided in her daily practice by a very clear set of comprehensive policies and procedures. Overall, all record keeping is very well maintained and children's records clearly reflect their progress.

The childminder attends training whenever she can to ensure her knowledge is current and thorough. She uses self-evaluation very effectively to identify her strengths and areas for progression. The childminder is very keen to continually develop her provision to maintain the high standard of fully inclusive care and education, that she currently offers to all children.

The childminder effectively recognises and addresses the distinctive needs of each child in consultation with parents and other settings. Parents are encouraged to

share what they know about their children before minding commences and throughout their time with the childminder. Parents are provided with a superb range of good quality information about the childminding provision and the children's activities and progress. The childminder understands that good communication is key to providing a consistent approach for the benefit of the children.

The childminder has first-class procedures in place to ensure children understand how to keep themselves safe and to maintain a very safe provision. She has a good understanding of safeguarding issues and she knows how to proceed if she has concerns about a child in her care.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The childminder shares her time very effectively to ensure all children are well supported as they play. Children can easily access a wide range of resources in the playroom to suit their interests and they choose from the pictorial record of resources. This ensures all children have the opportunity to be independent and make choices. The childminder plans a range of activities that cover all six areas of learning. For example, children enjoy making and painting salt dough shapes, try noodles for Chinese New Year and sing a wide range of counting songs. Children plant seeds in the garden and watch them grow and they use family photographs for discussion, in collage and to construct a family tree. Visits to local facilities, such as the park, develop children's understanding of their immediate environment.

The childminder makes observations of the children and enters them into the Surrey Learning Journey. This informs her about the children's progress and next steps. The childminder thinks about the activities she provides but the planning of activities is not sufficiently developed to ensure equal importance is given to all areas of learning, to support a rounded approach to child development. The childminder liaises with the children's other settings to ensure the activities she provides are complementary.

Excellent risk assessments are in place and regularly reviewed to ensure children's safety. Children practise the emergency evacuation procedure on a monthly basis so that they know how to behave in the event of an incident, and the house rules contribute to children's welfare. Children are encouraged to risk assess outings for themselves using the laminated sheets and this develops their knowledge of how to keep themselves safe.

Children play happily in a clean environment where steps are taken to teach them about good hygiene practices. For example, children choose their own towel when they arrive and they know to wash their hands before meals and snacks. Children understand the importance of cleaning their teeth regularly and they know that coughing and sneezing can spread infection. Children are provided with a wide range of healthy, well-planned meals and snacks, and their menu is rotated on a four-weekly basis to ensure variety.

Children are taught to be responsible for their own behaviour and the childminder maintains a calm environment to encourage good behaviour and a happy experience for all children. Older children play happily with younger ones and all children treat each other with respect and consideration.

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?	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?	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 registration.

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.