

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY379354
Inspection date	15/01/2009
Inspector	Susan Jennifer Scott
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 2008. She lives with her husband and young child in the village of Marden, in Kent. The ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The childminder has two cats.

The childminder is registered to care for five children at any one time. No overnight care is provided. This provision is registered on the Early Years Register and on both the voluntary and compulsory parts of the Childcare Register. The childminder collects children from a local pre-school and can walk or drive to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder minds three children on a part time basis. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The childminder has developed her practice so that all children receive good quality care and education to suit their individual needs. Children benefit from stimulating activities which are enthusiastically delivered by the childminder, who is able to ensure children's progress because she observes their individual skills and preferences. The childminder liaises with the other settings children attend and supplements their experiences so that she can support their learning and development. The childminder has begun to evaluate her implementation of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and has used this information to plan improvements for the children and their families.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- ensure all accidents are kept confidential and noted in the accident records
- make available to parents a written statement that provides details of the procedure to be followed if they have a complaint
- ensure that all records relating to childminding activities are reliable by completing these in pen

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder is keen to identify and develop good practice and ensure that children all benefit from the service she provides; for example, she is examining ways to develop her creative provision as she has observed children are keen to develop these experiences. The childminder has completed some training and is interested in building on her skills to promote her confidence in using the EYFS. She holds an up to date first aid certificate which enables her to provide appropriate first aid treatment for children. She has a record of accidents, and information on the administration of medication, and shares this information with

parents.

Children's records have details of their individual information and the play and activities they experience, which is adapted to suit individual needs. The partnership with parents and other agencies is a strength, as children's starting points are discussed, as are their experiences at pre-school when the childminder collects them. Brief observations are made and these are used to plan to enable children to progress by building upon their interests.

Parents who are provided with access to a file of the childminder's written policies and procedures. However, this does not include written information on behaviour management, equal opportunities, or child protection, although the childminder has agreed these procedures verbally with parents. The attendance register is accurately maintained but as this is written in pencil it does not properly protect the children or the childminder. There are written consents, including those for outings and transport.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children show independence and make choices about the activities they become involved in, such as using books to discuss and listen to. The children are learning about the importance of washing their hands and independently discuss this routine, showing a good understanding of its purpose.

The childminder ensures children experience interesting and relevant learning experiences which are adapted to meet individual needs. Children are engaged by the varied choices offered to them because they are well planned to suit their developmental stage and understanding. They are provided with a range of play and learning opportunities which are reinforced by the questioning skills and the input of the childminder. For instance, when they share an alphabet book the childminder reads and discusses the content with them, prompting them to sound the first letter of words and encouraging them to express their thoughts, so they talk about the sound 'i' and whether they enjoy ice creams.

Children enjoy discussing their play and ideas and the childminder encourages their confidence by responding to their requests and comments by offering choices. For instance, children are able to choose the filling they would like in their sandwiches. The childminder provides children with opportunities to play outside in the garden and uses these opportunities to reinforce their acquisition of physical skills. Children also benefit from outdoor activities when the childminder extends their creative experiences by enabling them to use the leaves they have collected to make collages.

The childminder observes children's achievements, such as their developing social skills, and plans the next steps to extend their skills. For example, one child receives an explanation when he has a toy taken by a younger child who is upset because he is tired; this teaches him patience and tolerance for younger children.

Children are encouraged to tidy after themselves and the childminder offers explanations, giving clear and positive direction which effectively avoids negative

behaviour. They learn right from wrong from her praise and the good example she sets. The childminder keeps children safe and ensures children know what to do in the event of an emergency, if they are old enough to understand. She has made good arrangements to safeguard children and shares her procedures with parents so that they are informed about her arrangements. The childminder feels confident that she would recognise child protection concerns and understands her duty to the children as well as current safeguarding procedures.

The childminder works closely with parents, sharing information about the care she offers through some written policies and procedures although she has no written information to inform parents of the procedure to be followed if they have a complaint. This is a breach of a specific legal requirement. The childminder displays information, such as her certificates of registration and insurance, and a poster on how to get in touch with Ofsted. She frequently discusses children's experiences and monitors intakes of food so that she is able to ensure they have sufficient healthy and nutritious food. The childminder has obtained a variety of written consents from parents for activities such as travel, and obtaining medical advice or treatment in an emergency.

Children are safeguarded by the plans for a possible emergency evacuation. Arrangements to safeguard children are clear. Although the garden fence has blown down recently, the childminder has risk assessed this and will only use the garden when it is safe for children to play there. Close liaison with parents protects children from infectious diseases wherever possible, as the childminder has sought out information such as which immunisations children have had and information in order to identify illnesses.

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 since the 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.