

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY380154
Inspection date	12/01/2009
Inspector	Michelle Ann Parham
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 registered in 2008. He lives in a house in Fareham in Hampshire with his wife who has been a registered childminder since 1981. The property is accessible as toileting facilities are situated on the ground floor which is predominantly used for childminding purposes. There is a fully enclosed rear garden area available for outside play. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time. When working with another childminder this number increases to 12 children. The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and on the voluntary and compulsory parts of the Childcare Register. There are currently 16 children on roll of which 11 are in the early years age range and of which three children attend on a full-time basis. The childminder is currently undertaking the Early Years Professional Status qualification. He attends groups for children on a regular basis and the setting is within walking distance to local schools, shops and parks.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

All major aspects of the provision are exemplary which ensures children's learning and development progress is very good and provision for their physical and emotional well-being is excellent. Inclusive practice is intrinsic as all children are treated as unique and individual ensuring they are all integrated and achieving as much as they can as the childminder has excellent knowledge and understanding of each child's background and needs. Excellent use of questionnaires with parents and undertaking the Early Years Professional Status training reflects positively in work practice contributing to the childminder making continual improvement to the outstanding provision.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

To further improve the high quality early years provision the registered person should consider:

- continuing to develop individual educational plans for all children to extend their learning by identifying next steps and evaluating outcomes.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

Children benefit from an exceptionally well organised provision which contributes to making very good progress in learning and development. The childminder clearly enjoys his role and is committed to ensuring all requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage are met to a very high standard. Some individual educational plans do not yet identify next steps and evaluate outcomes achieved for children; however this has been identified by the childminder for immediate implementation. High aspirations for quality are evident through ongoing professional development and through rigorous systems such as comprehensive

self evaluation of work practice and policies which demonstrate the childminder's willingness to identify strengths and areas for development. All documentation is maintained to a high standard for the safe and efficient management of the provision and to ensure individual needs are addressed.

Experience and excellent understanding of procedures to protect children ensure welfare is maintained. The childminder is committed to promoting safety ensuring adults in the home are suitably vetted and procedures to assess risk are highly robust with hazards identified and addressed.

Partnerships with parents and outside agencies are very well established to ensure children are effectively supported in their care and development. Excellent systems in place promote sharing of information with the use of daily diaries, newsletters, a web site and policies and procedures which ensure parents/carers are fully informed and are included in their child's time at the setting. The childminder is extremely flexible and if required offers out of hours care to support the family unit and to ensure consistency for children.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children enjoy attending the setting and make very good progress in their learning and development as strong focus is given to following their individual interests and ensuring their specific needs are identified and met. They are happy and confident evidenced by how they freely engage in play and enjoy the company of the childminder and the cuddles they receive. Children develop an understanding of the world through lots of opportunities for trips into the community such as regular outings to Blue Reef aquarium and Paultons Park. They enjoy exciting activities such as making models, painting fish and collecting sea shells from the local beach to follow on their interest of sea life. Activities are interesting and worthwhile such as finding out about how things 'fly or flop' at the local Search Discovery Centre or looking at mini beasts under a microscope. All of which develops their knowledge and understanding. Children have excellent opportunities to develop an understanding of how things work and how to follow instructions as the childminder is highly skilled in information technology. They benefit from a designated computer area at the setting and programmes the childminder has specifically designed to develop their concept of literacy and numeracy. The childminder is also highly innovative in devising fun board games to promote mathematical concepts and literacy. These are based on favourite stories such as The Very Hungry Caterpillar where children have opportunities to match and compare, sequence and count. The childminder has an excellent understanding of how children learn through play and enables them to initiate their own choice through very good organisation of the wealth of resources at the provision thus developing responsibility and independence. Wonderful adventure equipment in the garden area and a wealth of wheeled toys promote gross motor development and give children the opportunity to explore and take risks in a safe environment. Regular observations are completed with targets identified for focus activities. Assessments show clear links to the early learning goals and children benefit from a balanced curriculum of natural free play and planned focus activities to ensure they make very good progress.

Children have various means to help them gain an understanding of keeping safe through discussion and daily routines such as practising road safety and of finding a safe person such as a community police officer. The childminder helps them become aware of hazards out of the setting such as broken glass and of strangers as they discuss issues when they regularly walk to the local school. They benefit from effective measures taken in the home to keep safe such as using safety gates, socket covers and safe storage of hazardous materials. Emergency evacuation is practised monthly and excellent procedures in place such as an emergency kit in the playhouse evidence how the childminder is proactive and prepared. Techniques to manage behaviour are positive and stage appropriate using lots of praise and encouragement, discussion and distraction. Excellent systems and routines are in place to promote being healthy such as regular teeth brushing, hand washing and picking healthy fruits to eat such as apples and pears from the trees in the rear garden. Wonderful wholesome, home cooked meals are provided at the setting with fresh filtered water to develop good healthy lifestyle habits and ensure children are nourished.

Children receive excellent levels of support and thrive in this setting where strong emphasis is given to their individuality, ensuring all needs are effectively addressed and they thoroughly enjoy and achieve.

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?	1
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	1
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?	1
How effective is the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement?	1
How well does the setting work in partnership with parents and others?	1
How well are children safeguarded?	1

Quality and standards

How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?	1
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?	1
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	1
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	1
How well are children helped develop skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being?	1

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.