

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY257947
Inspection date	25/08/2009
Inspector	Liz Margaret Caluori
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 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 by Ofsted in 2003 and is on the Early Years Register and both the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. She lives in Yalding, Maidstone, with her husband and two children aged seven and five years. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's house and one bedroom upstairs are used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children under eight years at any one time, of whom three may be in the early years age range. She is currently minding three children under eight, two of whom are in the early years age range. In addition, she provides care for two children who are over eight years. All children attend on a part time basis.

The childminder walks to the local school and pre-school to deliver and collect children. She attends local toddler groups. The family have a guinea pig, a cat and gold fish.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall, the quality of the provision is good. Children play and learn in a safe, child-centred environment. They are making good progress in all areas of development as a result of the careful attention given to identifying and meeting individual needs. This is supported by the childminder's positive attitude towards working in partnership with parents and carers. Children further benefit from the childminder's commitment to continual self-reflection and improving all aspects of her practice.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- continue to update and expand the policies and procedures available to parents and carers to fully reflect the good practices within the setting
- consider increasing young children's access to mark making materials to enable them to practise drawing and mark making more readily in their free play

To fully meet the specific requirements of the EYFS, the registered person must:

- undertake written risk assessments of the premises, activities and planned outings and ensure that these are reviewed regularly (Safeguarding and welfare)
(applies to both parts of the Childcare Register)

18/09/2009

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder demonstrates a very good understanding of children's development and skilfully provides activities which capture their interest and support their learning. She fully appreciates the value of monitoring and reflecting on her practice in order to ensure that she is meeting the individual needs of the minded children and their families. In addition, she has effective systems in place to assess and monitor children's progress and makes records which support her in clearly identifying their next steps.

The positive relationships that the childminder maintains with parents and carers allow for an effective exchange of information and supports children to feel safe and secure. Parents are given access to a range of policies and procedures although these have a tendency to be brief and do not all fully reflect the good practices within the setting. Parents and carers are fully informed about their child's progress and are involved in setting their future goals. In addition, the childminder has formed links with other professionals who are involved in delivering the Early Years Foundation Stage to children in her care.

The childminder fully understands her responsibility to report any child protection concerns that she may have. She is confident in her ability to identify the potential signs and symptoms of child abuse and has the contact details for the relevant local safeguarding department.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children make very good progress in their all round development as a result of the support and encouragement they receive. They are relaxed, happy and settled in the childminder's home as a result of the childminder's warm and caring interaction. They relish the opportunities they have to explore and investigate their environment and explore the resources available to them. This supports them to become very independent in their learning. They are developing the skills to make confident choices and decisions as well as to begin to solve problems for themselves in secure surroundings.

Children are making particularly good progress in their language development. The childminder is highly skilled at developing young children's vocabulary and engages in charming conversations covering a broad range of subjects. Children also enjoy looking at books and listening to stories. Pens, pencils and other mark making equipment are set out each day and older children are able to use these independently. Younger children also regularly practice their drawing and pre-writing skills, however they need support from the childminder to access the resources. As a result, they are not able to visit this activity independently during their freely chosen play.

Children are given an impressive level of support to develop their knowledge and understanding of the world. They are taken on a variety of interesting outings to local events and places of interest. Recent examples include attending a falconry

display at Leeds Castle and a visit to the theatre to watch 'Angelina Ballerina'. The children also take part in practical activities such as cooking, hatching caterpillars and planting flowers and herbs. They also have access to a computer. These activities, along with the strong emphasis on promoting their social skills, help children to develop a range of skills that they will need in later life.

Children are protected by the range of safety precautions in place throughout the childminder's home. These include the use of safety gates to restrict children's access to potentially hazardous areas such as the kitchen. Smoke detectors are in place and emergency evacuation routes are clearly identified and free from obstruction. The childminder has undertaken practice evacuation drills with the children. Whilst the childminder routinely undertakes risk assessments on her premises and outings, she does not maintain written records. This is a breach of the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage.

The childminder teaches children about the importance of good hygiene. They are supported to develop good personal care and toileting skills. In addition, they enjoy nutritious food including a range of fruit and vegetables. Meals and snacks are planned to reflect children's individual dietary requirements and drinks are constantly available.

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?	3
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

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Annex B: the Childcare Register

The provider confirms that the requirements of the compulsory part of the Childcare Register are:

Not Met (with actions)

The provider confirms that the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register are:

Not Met (with actions)

The registered provider does not meet the requirements of the compulsory and or voluntary part/s of the Childcare Register.

To comply with the requirements of the compulsory part of the Childcare Register, the registered person must take the following action/s by the specified date:

- take action as specified in the early years section of the report (Arrangements for Safeguarding Children) 18/09/2009

To comply with the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register, the registered person must take the following action/s by the specified date:

- take action as specified in the early years section of the report (Arrangements for Safeguarding Children) 18/09/2009