

Inspection report for early years provision

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Inspection date	17/09/2009
Inspector	Amanda Shedden
Type of setting	Childminder

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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.

Please see our website for more information about each childcare provider. We publish inspection reports, conditions of registration and details of complaints we receive where we or the provider take action to meet the requirements of registration.

Description of the childminding

The childminder registered in 2003. She provides care in the family home situated in Haslemere, Surrey. She lives with her husband and two school age children. The house is within walking distance of all local amenities. Children are cared for on the ground floor of the property. There is a large fully enclosed garden for outside play. A secure decked area, close to the house, is available for younger children to enjoy. The family have pets in the home.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children under eight years, of these, three may be in the early years age group. The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and both the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. She is currently caring for four children in the early years age group on a part-time basis.

The childminder has completed the level three in Childminding Practice. She attends a local carer and toddler group and library on a regular basis.

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is good.

This is a fully inclusive setting. Children's individuality is recognised and nurtured by the childminder who has a secure knowledge of the children's individual needs. The children are happy and settled. Their needs are met as they are offered a range of resources and activities suitable to their individual stages of development. Children are making good progress towards the early learning goals. The childminder has a good understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS).

Systems are in place that allow the childminder to reflect on her practice and make changes where necessary. She has undertaken a range of courses to ensure that her knowledge and skills are continually updated.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- continue to conduct observations of each child's achievements. Ensure these are updated consistently in order for each child's learning journey to take a personal path based on their own interests, experiences and the curriculum on offer. Regularly share these with parents to enable learning to be continued at home.
- ensure children's attendance register clearly shows accurate times of arrival and departure

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

Children benefit from a well organised safe environment both indoors and in the garden. The childminder has risk assessments in place for all areas the children use, including amenities and facilities outside of the home. She has a first aid certificate and has undertaken training related to child protection. Therefore, should a child have an accident or if she has concerns about a child correct procedures would be followed. All necessary paperwork and written permissions from parents are in place. However, the register needs adjusting to reflect the actual times of arrival and departure of the children. She has created a range of policies and procedures to support her practice. These are shared with the parents to ensure that both parties are aware of each others responsibilities.

The childminder has systems in place to monitor her provision and identify any areas of improvement for the benefit of the children. Children are offered an array of good quality resources both in the home and the garden. The two play rooms have different types of resources in them arranged to allow the children to self-select many of them. The children are aware of other resources and are given choices throughout the day as to what they would like to do. Children are free to access whichever room they wish as well as playing in the corridor, which gives children an area to use the sit and ride toys. The garden is equipped with resources for all ages from slides and monkey bars to a trampoline and climbing wall, all of which helps the children develop their physical skills. All children have equal access to the resources that are appropriate for their stage of development.

Partnership with parents and carers is positive. The childminder talks to the children's parents and other providers to ensure that she is offering continuity of care. She is aware of the activities the children undertake elsewhere and continues to extend their experiences whilst they are in her care. Parents receive daily diaries which keeps them informed of all the day's activities and experiences. Time is taken each day to discuss the children's needs, however, their next steps are not identified or shared with the parents. She has created questionnaires for parents to ensure that they are happy with the care she is giving their children, which is used as part of her on-going monitoring.

The quality and standards of the early years provision and outcomes for children

The children are content and enjoy the time they spend at the childminder's. The range of activities and her positive interaction ensure that the children are making good progress. She tracks individual children's progress, however, observations taken are not linked to the six areas of learning. She is aware of the next steps but the planning is not robust enough to ensure that the activities cover all of the areas.

Children are offered a good balance of adult and child-led experiences throughout their time at the childminder's. They attend groups where they can further develop

their social skills and they go to the library to listen to stories and choose books for themselves. Whilst in the home they choose what they would like to do. They confidently ask when they want some different resources that are stored out of reach. Children especially enjoy the small and imaginary resources and they become totally engrossed in their imaginary games. The childminder supports them by ensuring they have the range of resources they want and not interrupting their game, allowing them as much time as they wish to play.

Children feel safe within the home. They are comfortable choosing which room to play in and what they wish to play with. Children are beginning to learn about healthy lifestyles. They know to wear sun cream and hats when it is warm. The children enjoy a range of healthy snacks and meals provided by the childminder. They know to wash their hands at appropriate times and sing a song whilst doing so, encouraging them to take time doing it properly. Each day they spend time outside, for example, enjoying the garden or going for walks for instance to feed the ducks.

Children's behaviour is very good. They respond well to the praise and encouragement they receive from the childminder building and supporting their self-esteem. The children help to tidy away. They know that once this is done they will be able to have different resources to play with.

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

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

How well does the setting meet the needs of the children in the Early Years Foundation Stage?	2
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement	2

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

How effectively is the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?	2
The effectiveness of leadership and management in embedding ambition and driving improvement	2
The effectiveness with which the setting deploys resources	2
The effectiveness with which the setting promotes equality and diversity	2
The effectiveness of safeguarding	2
The effectiveness of the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement	2
The effectiveness of partnerships	2
The effectiveness of the setting's engagement with parents and carers	2

The quality of the provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage

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Outcomes for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage

Outcomes for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage	2
The extent to which children achieve and enjoy their learning	2
The extent to which children feel safe	2
The extent to which children adopt healthy lifestyles	2
The extent to which children make a positive contribution	2
The extent to which children develop skills for the future	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:	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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