

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY388925
Inspection date	24/08/2009
Inspector	Debbie Molly O'Callaghan
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 in 2008. She lives with her husband and young son in Three Bridges, Crawley, West Sussex. All areas on the ground floor are used for childminding purposes along with bathroom and sleeping arrangements on the first floor. There is a rear garden for outdoor play. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children under eight at any one time. The childminder is also registered to provide overnight care. She is registered on the Early Years Register, and both the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. There are currently two children on roll. The childminder is happy to attend local drop-in groups, take children to the local library, the park and places of interest. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association (NCMA).

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the provision is good. The childminder has a good understanding of the children's needs and is proactive in creating an inclusive atmosphere. She has an effective partnership with parents, and children play in a warm and welcoming family home, progressing well in all areas of their development. Children are safe and secure at all times and benefit from good relationships with the childminder. Ofsted's self-evaluation form is used to monitor her provision, and she has started to incorporate parents' views. This ensures she consistently reviews her practice and makes continuous improvement.

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 self-evaluation procedure as the basis of ongoing review and assessment.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder provides comprehensive policies and procedures and has good systems in place to ensure children's health, safety and welfare. She uses written risk assessments effectively in order to regularly check her provision and ensures all adult members of the household are appropriately vetted. The childminder has a good understanding of her role in safeguarding children and ensures her knowledge of promoting children's safety and welfare is kept up-to-date through training. She takes time each day to complete daily diaries, recording the children's play and daily routine. She keeps parents well informed about their child's progress through individual progress reports and daily discussion. Parents also receive copies of all policies and procedures.

Health is well promoted, with good systems in place to help minimise the risk of cross-infection, close attention is given to the children's personal hygiene and children benefit from a nutritionally balanced diet.

The childminder demonstrates a commitment to continuous improvement and is very keen to improve upon her knowledge and skills. She is working towards a Diploma in home based Childcare and is using the Ofsted self-evaluation form to identify future training needs. The childminder enables parents to express their views and ideas, although these are not clearly linked to the self-evaluation procedure in order for parents to meaningfully contribute.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The childminder has a good range of toys and play materials which encourages children to explore and develop their interests. This helps children to enjoy their learning and to make progress in all areas of development. They happily explore their environment and form good relationships with the childminder. They learn to share and play well alongside each other. Children freely make choices from a good range of toys, and the childminder provides a good balance of adult-directed and child-led play. Written activity plans are clearly linked to the areas of learning and include visits to toddler groups and the park. Activities are challenging, taking into account the children's interests, age and ability.

Children play with play dough, rolling and making shapes, the childminder asks the children "is it a cake, is it hot?" Children blow on it and laugh with delight as the childminder joins in with their play, she talks to the children about what they are making and pretends she has a caterpillar crawling along the table, they enjoy the interaction and babies make lots of sounds and copy each other laughing and gurgling.

Children enjoy exploring and playing with activity and musical technology toys, this helps children to develop curiosity, coordination and physical abilities as they bounce, climb and develop their fine motor skills.

The childminder effectively uses observation to monitor the children's progress and records their development in 'Tracker records'. Links are made to the early learning goals, with comments about the children's achievements and future activity plans. Information is obtained about the children's likes and dislikes, and their personal folders include photographs of their achievements. Children regularly play outside and benefit from fresh air and exercise, they go on outings, toddler groups and have many opportunities to move around freely.

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

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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

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