

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY385342
Inspection date	28/07/2009
Inspector	Jill Steer
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 partner and one child aged 19 months in Hove, close to shops, parks, schools and public transport links. The childminder's home is situated in the basement of a converted house, with steep steps leading to the door. The whole of the childminder's home is used for childminding, with the exception of the bedrooms. She has some fish as pets.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children under eight years at any one time, of whom no more than two may be in the early years age range. She is currently minding one child in this age group. She also offers care to children aged over five years to 11 years. This provision is registered by Ofsted on the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. She is a member of an approved childminding network.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The quality of the provision is satisfactory. The childminder has completed suitable training to enable her to care for young children and continues to attend training courses to update her knowledge of childcare and development but she does not reflect on the effectiveness of her childminding practice. Children make satisfactory progress as they enjoy time spent engaged in well planned activities, some of which are based upon their individual interests. Children are cared for in a generally safe environment which enables them to make suitable developmental progress. The childminder has clearly written policies in place which ensures parents are well informed about the care she will provide.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- ensure children are safe in the garden in relation to the pond
- develop the use of reflective practice and self-evaluation to identify strengths and priorities for development that will continuously improve the quality of the provision for all children

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

- seek written authorisation for future emergency medical advice or treatment when children first attend (Safeguarding)

28/07/2009

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder is suitably qualified and experienced to provide satisfactory care for young children. The childminder has developed effective partnerships with the parents of the children and obtains detailed information which enables her to care for each child as an individual. This includes details about their own routines, preferences and abilities, as well as special people in their lives and favourite things to do. Information is shared with parents through daily discussions and a report sheet so they are fully aware of the children's daily activities. The report sheet invites parental comment, but the childminder has not yet begun to use any other form of self-evaluation to assess what she offers against robust and challenging quality criteria.

The childminder has carried out a risk assessment of the premises, equipment and outdoor area in order to identify any potential hazards to children. This enabled her to identify the need to closely supervise children around the pond in the garden. The childminder has a clear understanding of the signs that a child may be abused and informs parents of her responsibility in this area. She has a policy in place which details the action she should take to safeguard the children in her care. Most of the required documentation is in place and generally well maintained. However, the childminder does not have parental consent to seek emergency medical treatment which does not ensure children can receive urgent medical assistance should the need arise.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children can access all the resources independently, with the childminder on hand to provide guidance and assistance as required. This means children are able to make their own choices about what to play with which helps them have a real sense of welcome and belonging. Children respond well to the childminder's support which supports their progress and develops their confidence. For example, holding babies to practise standing on their feet and showing them musical toys for them to respond to. Children's language is encouraged and their vocabulary extended as the childminder uses appropriate terminology and facial expressions to communicate effectively. For example, she smiles openly at babies, names the objects they look at and sings familiar rhymes.

Children make satisfactory developmental progress through an interesting range of activities, some of which are planned by the childminder, others are instigated by the children themselves. All six areas of learning are incorporated so children benefit from a broad range of experiences and skills. The childminder has begun to record observations of the children's progress in order to monitor their individual development. The information gained then contributes to the planning in order to help children move on to the next stage in their development.

Good procedures are in place to ensure children are kept safe on outings and the childminder is fully aware of supervising children in her garden near the pond. Clear procedures are in place to reduce the risk of infections, such as wearing

gloves whilst changing nappies and children staying home when unwell. Children enjoy their own feeds as provided by their parents although the childminder is happy to provide very healthy meals from her sample menus. Children are encouraged to behave well following the good examples set by the childminder who has a very calm demeanour.

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?	3
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	3
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	3

Leadership and management

How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?	3
How effective is the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement?	3
How well does the setting work in partnership with parents and others?	2
How well are children safeguarded?	3

Quality and standards

How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?	3
How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?	3
How well are children helped to stay safe?	3
How well are children helped to be healthy?	3
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	3
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	3
How well are children helped develop skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being?	3

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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