

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	505675
Inspection date	24/09/2009
Inspector	Alison Weaver

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 has been registered since 1998. She lives with her husband and two teenage children. They live in a house in Uckfield near to shops, parks and schools. The whole of the ground floor of the property is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The childminder has two cats and a tortoise.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children under eight years at any one time, of whom no more than three may be in the early years age range. She is currently minding four children 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 Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. The childminder attends local carer and toddler groups on a regular basis.

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is good.

Children have an enjoyable time with the childminder and make good progress in their learning and development due to her effective interaction and provision of challenging activities. The childminder respects the wishes of parents and ensures children's individual welfare needs are met well. She has begun to identify training that she feels will help her to maintain continuous improvement and benefit the children.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- develop effective links with other providers in order to ensure continuity of care and education for individual children
- continue to develop the observation and assessment system to clearly show how well each child is achieving across all areas of learning and to ensure that identified learning priorities are used to plan activities that will help them continue to develop
- organise systems for the ongoing evaluation of the provision to identify strengths and priorities for development that will continuously improve the quality of the provision for all children.

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder shows she has a good knowledge of possible signs of child abuse and is aware of her responsibilities to report any concerns she has. She is booked on a safeguarding course in order to update her knowledge and fully ensure that

she is aware of the current procedures for reporting abuse. The home is kept secure so that no unauthorised adults have access to the children. The childminder carries out risk assessments to ensure children play free from harm at all times. There is a wide range of toys and equipment that are kept in good order. The required documentation is in place and generally well maintained. The childminder has a range of written policies that she has downloaded from a childminding website so they are, at times, very general and do not always give accurate information to parents.

The childminder works closely with parents to ensure she is providing an inclusive service for all children. She keeps them informed about their child's day through the effective use of care diaries. She also shares the observation and planning records regularly with parents. They have some opportunities to contribute informally to the observation and assessment process. The childminder is in the process of trying to form links with other providers so that they can work together to support children's individual care and education.

The childminder has completed a quality assurance scheme in the past but has done little in the way of formal self-evaluation recently. Since the last inspection she has developed her provision for the children by improving her recording of children's achievements. She has a realistic awareness of her strengths but has not yet fully thought through how she could improve her practices further.

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

Children have fun in the welcoming and child friendly environment. The childminder makes good use of the space for the children so that they are able to move freely and safely around the home. She helps them develop their independence as they choose from a varied range of interesting and stimulating activities that include crafts and mark making. The childminder provides activities and resources that will promote children's individual development in all six areas of learning. She adapts the activities so that all children can take part in their own way.

Children happily play together and learn to take turns with the toys. Older children are encouraged to care for the younger ones. Children behave well and respond positively to the childminder who is very caring and attentive. She promotes their learning as they play by talking to them about what they are doing and extending their ideas. The childminder develops a general awareness of each child's abilities and interests so that she can use this knowledge to help them move on in their learning. She uses an observation book and a planning book for each child. However, she does not always link these two separate records to make effective use of the next steps in her planning and to assess each child's progress towards all the early learning goals.

Children show an interest in their world and other people. They learn about other ways of life as they celebrate different festivals. They have fun using simple technology such as a digital camera, an old keyboard and a telephone. Toddlers

can be seen mimicking adults as they pretend to talk on the phone. The childminder introduces words to them and reinforces their communication skills well. She has visual aids that she uses to help children who are less confident with their language. Children show good coordination and fine motor skills as they play with the puzzles and use different tools such as sponges, brushes, pens and stampers. They concentrate well and thoroughly enjoy spending time exploring with paint and the effect water has on paper.

Children have fun finding out about nature and the wider world. For example, they make and play with 'windy sticks' and windmills. They create bird feeders together for the garden. They go on trips to Raystede to see the animals and on walks in the woods. They learn how to keep themselves safe when they are out as they practise crossing roads and what to do in parks. The childminder promotes children's health through the effective daily hygiene routines and explanations about issues such as sun safety. They are provided with healthy snacks and drinking water. They have daily opportunities to enjoy fresh air and exercise. The childminder uses any appointments with health professionals to talk to the children about looking after their bodies.

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	3

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	3
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	3
The effectiveness of partnerships	3
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

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