

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	121458
Inspection date	18/10/2009
Inspector	Bridget Richardson
Type of setting	Childminder

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, work-based learning and skills training, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It rates council children's services, and inspects services for looked after children, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 08456 404040, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may copy all or parts of this document for non-commercial educational purposes, as long as you give details of the source and date of publication and do not alter the information in any way.

Royal Exchange Buildings
St Ann's Square
Manchester
M2 7LA

T: 08456 404040
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.ofsted.gov.uk

© Crown copyright 2009

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 was registered in 1994. She lives with her husband, three adult children and a 14 year old in Redhill, Surrey. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a garden for outside play. The family has one dog, three cats and a rabbit.

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 three 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 compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register.

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is outstanding.

Overall, the quality of the provision is outstanding. Children are extremely happy and settled in the caring and friendly home environment. Time is spent gathering clear information from parents and working closely with them and other carers to ensure children's individual needs are met. This helps to ensure children are confident and secure with the care provided. Children thoroughly enjoy their time with the childminder and make excellent progress in their learning and development. The childminder attends training courses to continually update and extend her knowledge and understanding of early years for the benefit of all the children who attend. She has an excellent commitment towards maintaining continuous improvement and is proactive in seeking out further training to enhance her practice.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

To further improve the high quality early years provision the registered person should consider:

- continuing to develop observations and assessment procedures so as to further enhance practice to support the children's good progress towards the Early Learning Goals

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder understands the importance of keeping children safe and has a clear, highly effective policy in place, which details how she accomplishes this. It also includes procedures for responding to any allegations she may receive. The parents receive a copy of this so they are clear how their child will be protected and the childminder has recently updated her training in this area.

The childminder uses self-evaluation very effectively to continuously monitor her provision against rigorous criteria and she clearly understands how to update this so she can promote improvements. The childminder has an excellent commitment to improving her own knowledge and expertise and keeps current with new initiatives in childcare. Her exceptional professional development is shown by the courses she has attended which include first aid, safeguarding children refresher training, Early Years Foundation Stage seminar for home-based child carers workshop, foundation certificate in health and safety in the workplace and persona doll workshop.

All documentation is extremely well maintained and in place to promote the welfare of children, such as daily attendance records and parental consents. The childminder undertakes daily visual checks of the premises to ensure children's safety. This is supported by a full comprehensive risk assessment, which also includes each type of outing, which are effectively reviewed at regular intervals to ensure all areas used by children are suitable at all times. The home is exceptionally well organised with children having access to ground floor rooms and a playroom specifically designed for their use. Children are able to move around areas easily and have access to a suitable garden. They easily access a wide range of innovative resources and labelled boxes of toys help them to gain confidence in making independent choices.

Partnerships with parents, carers and children are very well established. Parents are made to feel extremely welcome in the setting through discussion at the beginning and end of each session. A notice board with a wide range of relevant information is accessible to parents. The childminder ensures parents are clearly aware of her working practice as she shares an extensive range of policies and procedures with them. These are reviewed regularly to ensure up to date with current legislations and any changes are clearly shared with parents. Parents in return state that they feel they are given lots of information about their child's day and are happy with the care. The childminder has a clear and effective understanding of the importance of establishing good working relationships with other carers and has excellent systems in place, which ensure the individual needs of each child are met. These systems ensure that children's learning and development can be effectively met.

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

The childminder provides a warm, welcoming and inclusive environment, which encourages children to explore and make choices about their own play. Children have excellent opportunities to free-flow between the playroom, conservatory and outside. Children's work is displayed around the playroom and photographs of them at play so they know they are valued. Children readily select their own toys and thoroughly enjoy the positive support from the childminder in their play. For example, children choose to complete a craft activity happily accessing a wide range of materials to ensure they are able to make free choices in their design. Children are supported very well by the childminder who adapts the activity to ensure each child can achieve and she discusses their achievements with them.

She also promotes their confidence and self-esteem as she consults with them about where they would like their craftwork displayed in the playroom.

The childminder has an extremely good understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage and planning is linked to all areas of learning, the childminder evaluates activities so children always have the best experience possible. Observations are thorough and linked to the next step in children's learning, so they are continually making exceptional progress. The childminder is continually developing her observations and assessments to effectively facilitate children's play and learning. The childminder gains a wide range of information about children's starting points from parents, which is detailed to reflect all areas of learning. She understands how to respond to children's individual interests, how to support each child individual needs and allows children to input into planning. Planned activities, positive images and a range of diverse resources enable children to gain an understanding of the wider world around them.

Children's developing physical skills are supported extremely well through long walks, visits to local woods and adventure playgrounds, which ensure children, have exceptional opportunities to access a wide range of equipment, which promotes challenges. Children all have wet weather gear to ensure they are able to enjoy outside play all year round to fully extend their opportunities to use both the indoor and outdoor as learning environments.

Children's health is exceptionally well promoted as they enjoy healthy snacks and home cooked meals, which take in to account their individual dietary and medical needs. Drinking water is easily accessible and children know which drink is theirs as they choose which colour beaker they would like. Excellent hygiene procedures are in place. Liquid soap and paper towels are accessible to children in the toilets, anti-bacterial agents is used to clean all surfaces before and after meals and the childminder acts as a positive role model washing her hands after supporting young children personal hygiene needs which all helps to prevent cross-contamination effectively.

Children behave very well and understand the need for simple rules, such as sharing and taking turns. They are supported extremely well by the childminder who is consistent in her strategies, supervises children well and offering lots of praise and encouragement for positive behaviour. Children enjoy excellent opportunities to socialise with their peers as the childminder meets up with other childminders. Parents feels this offers their child opportunities to gain a wide range of friends.

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?	1
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement	1

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

How effectively is the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?	1
The effectiveness of leadership and management in embedding ambition and driving improvement	1
The effectiveness with which the setting deploys resources	1
The effectiveness with which the setting promotes equality and diversity	1
The effectiveness of safeguarding	2
The effectiveness of the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement	1
The effectiveness of partnerships	2
The effectiveness of the setting's engagement with parents and carers	1

The quality of the provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage

The quality of the provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage	1
--	---

Outcomes for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage

Outcomes for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage	1
The extent to which children achieve and enjoy their learning	1
The extent to which children feel safe	2
The extent to which children adopt healthy lifestyles	1
The extent to which children make a positive contribution	1
The extent to which children develop skills for the future	1

Any complaints about the inspection or report should be made following the procedures set out in the guidance available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk

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
--	-----