

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY288643
Inspection date	11/02/2010
Inspector	Helen Penticost
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 was registered in 2004. She lives with her husband and two school aged children in a house on the outskirts of the village of Claygate in Surrey. Most of the ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding. There is access to a fully enclosed rear grassed garden for outside play. The family has a rabbit.

The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and both the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. She may care for a maximum of six children, of these, not more than three may be in the early years age group and is currently caring for four children in this age range and two children on the Childcare Register. The childminder takes children to and collects them from local pre-schools and schools. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is good.

The childminder provides an extremely happy, child orientated environment, in which children's welfare is successfully promoted. Children's learning and development is supported well through the daily provision of stimulating play opportunities and visits within the local area. The childminder has developed excellent relationships with parents to ensure that individual children's needs are met. The childminder consults with the parents to evaluate her practice and to ensure continual improvements and good outcomes for children.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- ensure that written permission is sought for the use of the trampoline
- continue to increase the range of role play resources to reflect culture and gender

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder's safeguarding policies cover all the required elements of child protection and she has a good awareness of signs and symptoms and the procedures to follow in the event of her having any concerns about a child in her care. All adults in the household have Criminal Record Bureau clearances and are suitable to be in regular contact with children. The childminder has organised her paperwork well, it is all readily available for inspection and is effectively maintained to ensure that it is correct and up to date. Formal risk assessments covering all areas have been conducted and any issues raised have been acted upon. However,

written permission for the use of the trampoline is not currently in place.

The childminder operates a fully inclusive service for all children regardless of background and ability. Her toys such as play people, books and puzzles show many positive images of race, culture and disability and all children play with all activities regardless of gender. She is aware of the need to continue to develop these resources to extend the range of role play equipment, such as dressing up clothes to reflect our diverse culture and gender. The childminder is very committed to the children and families for whom she cares and she establishes stable, long term childminding arrangements. Children have access to a dedicated area of the home where they have ample space to play in a bright and colourful environment. She has arranged toys so that those most suitable for the babies are on the lowest level of her accessible shelving units.

Excellent liaison with parents is established to ensure children's progress in relation to starting points. She has an extensive knowledge of each child, she knows them very well and she uses individual learning journals to record their progress. Positive comments from parents highlight how happy they are with the care their children receive from the childminder. References include; the childminder 'works hard to provide a stable and caring environment for the children' and she 'is totally reliable, caring and honest'. The childminder has procedures in place to undertake working in partnership with others, for example when exchanging information with other pre-school provision about development and learning. Currently there are no children attending who require additional support.

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

Children thrive and progress very well within the relaxed, homely environment where they benefit from very close relationships with the childminder, which enables them to feel safe. Children's learning and development is effectively planned for, as the childminder is aware of their individual likes and dislikes and personal preferences. The well organised observation records produced by the childminder clearly show that children are participating in a range of activities which promote their learning. She records their achievements, is developing the skills for assessing their abilities and children's next steps are fully recorded.

Children demonstrate that they feel safe and happy in the childminder's care, approaching her for reassurance and cuddles. Older children access a wealth of age appropriate toys and resources including a foosball table as well as technological equipment. Children take part in countless activities that promote their small muscle movement. They create colourful masterpieces using craft materials such as paints and brushes as well as exploring the malleable properties of play dough.

Children are well-protected from illness and infection because the childminder provides a clean and hygienic environment. Procedures are in place should a child have an accident and the childminder maintains a current paediatric first aid certificate. Children receive regular fresh air and exercise and the childminder

promotes healthy eating, which enables children to adopt healthy lifestyles. They play in the childminder's garden with a range of physical play resources and regularly visit local parks, soft play areas and farms which also develops their understanding of their immediate community. Children's dietary needs are appropriately considered, working in partnership with parents to ensure children receive healthy meals and snacks, as well as regular drinks.

A written behaviour management policy which is shared with parents, sets out the various positive strategies she uses with the children. Children are continually praised and encouraged at all times which ensures that children gain in confidence and develop their self-esteem. All children have equal access to all resources and activities and have the freedom to explore the range of toys and resources available. The childminder is intuitive to even the youngest children's individual forms of communication ensuring that their needs are met.

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	1
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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