

Inspection report for early years provision

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Inspection date	20/04/2010
Inspector	Alison Jane Kaplonek
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.

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Description of the childminding

The childminder has been registered to care for children since 1989. She is registered on the Early Years Register and on both the voluntary and compulsory parts of the Childcare Register.

The childminder lives with her husband in a house in the Kings Worthy area of Winchester which is close to local schools and shops. All areas of the property are used for childminding and access to the premises is good. Toilet facilities are on both floors. There is a fully enclosed garden for outdoor play. The family have a cat.

The childminder is registered to provide care for six children from birth to eight years. Three of these may be in the early years age group. There are currently two children on roll who attend part time. Both of these children are in the early years age group.

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.

This very experienced childminder makes good provision for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage. She provides children with a welcoming, safe and stimulating environment and ensures that they are all equally valued and included. Children are able to easily access a wide and varied range of resources and interesting activities linked to all areas of learning. She has fully implemented the recommendations from her last inspection which has ensured continuous improvement has been made.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- make sure that the safeguarding children policy includes the procedure to be followed in the event of an allegation being made against the childminder or a member of her family and how to contact local services should a referral need to be made (Safeguarding and welfare). 04/06/2010

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

- further develop the risk assessment record to include when and how frequently checks are conducted

- ensure that assessment records reflect children's capabilities and link more clearly to children's next steps in all areas of learning.

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder is suitably vetted and has many years of experience of caring for children. She has a secure understanding of child protection procedures and a safeguarding policy and poster which she shares with parents. She understands her duty to make referrals if she has any concerns and knows how to contact the regulatory authority. However, the policy has not been fully updated in line with the Early Years Foundation Stage framework and does not include telephone numbers of all the departments she may need to contact if making a referral. The childminder completes contracts and children's detail forms with parents and records children's times of arrival and departure. She obtains a wide range of permissions from parents to ensure children's safety and keeps her First Aid qualification up to date.

The childminder works well with parents; she shares her policies and procedures and keeps daily diaries in which she records details about the children's routines and the activities they have enjoyed. She displays a wide range of information in poster form, such as fire evacuation, respecting others, information about the Early Years Foundation Stage requirements, her daily plans and the emergency procedure to follow if children are taken ill. She welcomes all children into the setting and ensures that their health, safety and wellbeing are of a good standard. She provides children with a warm, family environment, where they feel safe and secure and their emotional needs are well met. She regularly carries out risk assessments on the premises, equipment and outings although these do not include when and how frequently checks are conducted.

The childminder demonstrates a clear understanding of inclusive practice and encourages children to be fully involved in all aspects of their play and learning. As a result, children are motivated and are gaining in self-esteem. They learn about differences and valuing others as they take part in the range of activities provided. Good self-evaluation takes place which enables the childminder to recognise her strengths and most of the areas for further development.

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

Children make good progress in their learning. All children are able to make choices from the very well resourced indoor and outside environments. They confidently self-select equipment and enjoy exploring and investigating the wide range of learning experiences on offer. They enjoy mixing water and sand together and loading it into the big truck. They climb, slide and crawl in the garden and develop a sense of balance as they use the scooters or jump down the steps. Younger children also develop a good sense of belonging as they move around freely and with increasing confidence.

The weekly routine is planned and includes indoor activities such as cooking or painting, role play and construction. There is a good balance between child-initiated and adult-initiated activities, which also helps children become active learners. The childminder makes good use of the local area and younger children regularly enjoy trips on buses or trains. They enjoy their visits to the local pet shop and walks to the park. The childminder is beginning to make observations and assessments of children's progress, so that these can be used to plan for their future learning needs. However, the assessment records do not always reflect children's capabilities or the next steps in all areas of learning.

Children play and learn in a well organised, safe and secure environment, where their health and safety is assured. Babies and young children are provided with the necessary equipment to keep them safe, such as reins, high chairs and stair gates. Children talk about being careful as they play in the garden, learning to jump slowly down the steps and not to run too fast in case they fall over. They discuss evacuating the premises in case of an emergency, learn about road safety, dressing themselves ready for 'big' school and about hygiene routines.

Healthy meals and snacks are provided according to parents wishes and the childminder encourages healthy eating. She supplies fruit and breadsticks for snack time and ensures that children can always access their drinks. Older children enjoy the cooking sessions when they talk about the ingredients they are using. Children know to wash and dry their hands before eating and are supplied with individual hand towels and flannels. All children are welcomed into the setting and provided with resources to help them talk about differences and valuing each other. They learn about right and wrong behaviours through the kind but firm guidance of the childminder. They behave well and are polite and the childminder ensures that she celebrates each child's birthday.

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	3
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	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
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The provider confirms that the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register are:	Met
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