

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	161014
Inspection date	13/10/2010
Inspector	Alison Large
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 2001. She lives with her husband and three children in the Sholing area of Southampton. All areas of the ground floor are used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and the voluntary and compulsory parts of the Childcare Register.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of three children under eight years at any one time and when working with an assistant may care for six children under eight at any one time. She is currently caring for two children in the early years age group on a part time basis. The childminder is able to walk or drive to the local schools to take and collect children. The family have a pet tortoise. 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 satisfactory.

Children are happy, safe and settled with the childminder and children's welfare and learning are promoted. All children are equally valued and fully included to ensure none are disadvantaged. The children have a bright, child-friendly room in which to learn and play. Systems for monitoring the provision have not been started, to ensure that gaps in the provision are identified. The childminder has implemented most of the actions and recommendations from her last inspection moving towards helping to make continuous improvement to her setting.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- keep a record of a risk assessment and review the risk assessment, at least once a year, and include in the record the date of review and any action taken following a review or incident (Suitable premises, environment & equipment) (also applies to both parts of the Childcare Register) 14/12/2010
- keep a written record of complaints which must be made available to parents on request (Safeguarding and promoting children's welfare) (also applies to both parts of the Childcare Register) 14/12/2010

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

- ensure the good health of the children is promoted and take the necessary steps to prevent the spread of infection with particular regard to children's hand washing routines, the medication records and implementing an effective medication policy
- develop systems for monitoring and evaluating practice to ensure that any areas for improvement are identified.

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder works closely with the children and their families. She has organised the play space to enable children to move around freely. The childminder has a good awareness of safeguarding, she is clear about the action she would take if she had any concerns regarding the children in her care. The childminder ensures children are well supervised by herself and her assistant. The childminder has most of the required policies and procedures in place. However, she has not carried out and recorded thorough risk assessments on the premises, equipment and outings to ensure the children are fully protected. She also has not kept a record of any complaints she has received, to make available to parents and Ofsted. These are breaches of requirements.

Children develop independence as they select their activities from a good range of resources both indoors and outside. Daily routines ensure that children have plenty of opportunities to play and learn indoors, outdoors and on a variety of outings. The childminder supports parents well, she keeps them informed about routines and activities on an informal basis as she talks to them when they collect their children. Parents record that they are happy with the provision. The childminder shares the children's 'Learning Stories' with parents so they can work together to support children's learning.

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

Children enjoy their time at the childminder's and make progress in their learning and development. The premises are well organised and this allows the children to make independent choices, such as whether to play indoors or outdoors. Children take part in a range of interesting activities, some of which are adult led, for example an art and craft activity. At other times, children are able to initiate their own play and learning as they make choices from the range of easily accessible resources which are suitable for the different age ranges. A selection of interactive toys helps the younger children to develop their understanding of how things work. Children's developing vocabulary is promoted by the childminder and her assistant who involve themselves in their play. Children show a positive attitude to learning and are making progress towards the early learning goals.

The childminder observes and records children's progress in their 'Learning Stories' and their special books contain photographs and some of the work they have

done. The childminder does some formal planning and is able to adapt it according to the children she is caring for. She identifies the next steps in each child's learning to help ensure they are able to meet their full potential. Children play and learn in a safe and secure environment, where they learn about how to keep safe indoors and when out walking. Children develop a healthy lifestyle through daily physical exercise. They relish playing in the garden and have fun in the playhouse using their imaginations making cups of tea for the adults. Children behave well and relate well to those around them. Children's social skills are developing and are well promoted by the childminder and her assistant who regularly praise the children for their achievements.

Children's good health is generally promoted. They play in a clean and homely environment and their care requirements are met. However, the children have to share a towel when hand drying which increases the risk of cross infection, and medication records and policy are not meeting current requirements. Children learn about healthy eating as they enjoy snacks of fruit, and eat the nutritious meals that the childminder provides. Children are able to access regular drinks to ensure they remain hydrated. Children are confident in their day to day activities and are able to ask for help when needed, such as when putting on their coat.

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?	3
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement	3

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the Early Years Foundation Stage	3
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	3
The effectiveness of the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement	3
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

The quality of the provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage	3
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Outcomes for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage

Outcomes for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage	3
The extent to which children achieve and enjoy their learning	2
The extent to which children feel safe	3
The extent to which children adopt healthy lifestyles	3
The extent to which children make a positive contribution	2
The extent to which children develop skills for the future	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:

Not Met (with actions)

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

Not Met (with actions)

The registered provider does not meet the requirements of the compulsory and or voluntary part/s of the Childcare Register.

To comply with the requirements of the compulsory part of the Childcare Register, the registered person must take the following action/s by the specified date:

- keep a written record of complaints and any action taken as a consequence 14/12/2010
- undertake and keep a record of a risk assessment of the premises and equipment to ensure that they are safe and suitable for childcare 14/12/2010

To comply with the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register, the registered person must take the following action/s by the specified date:

- keep a written record of complaints and action taken as a consequence 14/12/2010
- undertake and keep a record of a risk assessment of the premises and equipment to ensure that they are safe and suitable for childcare 14/12/2010