

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY294195
Inspection date	23/02/2011
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).

Children only attend this setting before and/or after the school day and/or during the school holidays. The judgements in this report reflect the quality of early years provision offered to children during those periods.

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 was registered in 2004. She lives with her husband and two older children in a house in the Locks Heath area of Hampshire. All areas of the ground floor and an upstairs bedroom are used for childminding and access to the premises is good. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outdoor play. The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and on the voluntary and compulsory parts of the Childcare Register.

The childminder is registered to provide care for five children under eight. Three of these may be in the early years age group. She is currently minding seven children in the early years age group on a part-time basis. The family have no pets. The childminder has a relevant childcare qualification and is a member of the National Childminding Association. She is a member of an accredited childminding network and receives funding for early education.

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is outstanding.

The childminder has an excellent understanding of children's individual needs and ensures that all aspects of their welfare and learning are exceptionally well met. This means children enjoy a superb experience of the Early Years Foundation Stage. Children are cared for in a warm and welcoming family environment where they are all equally valued, included and treated with respect. As a result, they demonstrate high levels of confidence and an excitement to learn, and make excellent progress. The childminder is very effective at evaluating her provision to ensure all her strengths and areas for development are highlighted. She regularly accesses training opportunities, enabling her to make continuous improvements to her already excellent 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:

- further developing partnerships with other providers for the children who receive education and care in more than one setting, to enhance practice.

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

Children are fully protected as arrangements to safeguard children are robust. The childminder has a thorough and secure understanding of safeguarding issues and procedures. She has attended advanced child protection training, has an extensive

range of policies and procedures and extremely well organised records ensure that every child's needs are very well met. The childminder is suitably vetted and ensures that the children are always well supervised. She has exceptionally good systems in place to manage emergencies and provides childcare which is professional and efficient. Excellent risk assessments are in place and these are reviewed and updated to ensure children's safety both within the home and on outings. The childminder demonstrates a clear understanding of inclusive practice and encourages children to be fully involved in all aspects of their play and learning. The stimulating environment and wide range of resources and activities provided ensure the children are well motivated and have high levels of self-esteem.

The childminder is proactive in keeping her skills updated, which benefits the children she cares for. Thorough self-evaluation systems are in place to fully identify and deal with areas for development. The childminder has highlighted that she would like to develop the partnerships with other providers of the EYFS that the children she cares for attend to help provide a continuity of care and learning. The childminder has an excellent partnership with parents. Effective communication systems have been developed to ensure they are kept fully informed about their children. She shares the children's assessment records with them, so together they can discuss the way forward in their child's progress. Parents report they are extremely happy with the loving care the childminder offers and how much their children enjoy spending time with the childminder and her family. They praise the variety of activities provided and feel at ease knowing their children are well looked after. The childminder enables every child's needs to be successfully supported and their protection assured.

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

The childminder supports the children exceptionally well and takes excellent care of their individual needs. Children develop warm and secure relationships with the childminder and her family. They benefit from her commitment and enthusiasm, enjoying purposeful and interesting play. As a consequence, they all make excellent progress in every area of learning. Children take part in a wide range of adult- and child-initiated activities which follow their own interests. They are able to confidently select resources themselves and thoroughly enjoy making dens with the tents or doing art and craft activities. Regular observations and assessments are made by the childminder and used to ensure that children are consistently moving to the next steps in their learning and development. Parents are extremely well informed about their children's learning and development, via daily discussions and the folders of their children's progress. Parents are consulted about their children's needs and interests when the child first starts at the setting and then at regular intervals.

The childminder has an excellent working knowledge and understanding of how children learn and ensures that all children are fully supported. She takes children to visit local groups in her area, where they meet and interact with other children

and adults of all ages. Children very much enjoy their time with the childminder. Older children talk confidently about their experiences. They play well with the younger children, helping them to find resources and involving them in their games. Children have opportunities to count frequently and enjoy looking at books. Children's creative development is very much encouraged and they delight in activities such as making Mothers Day presents and cards and badge-making when the childminder provides a wide range of interesting materials for the children to explore. They relish the variety of activities offered. The childminder is highly skilled at knowing when to play alongside children and when to allow them to develop relationships with each other and solve problems.

Children learn about keeping themselves healthy as they talk about washing their hands before eating and after using the toilet. They access the outdoors for regular fresh air and exercise and enjoy going for walks, or on trips and outings. Children learn to keep themselves safe as they talk about road safety when out on walks, or when they practise the fire evacuation procedure. Children's behaviour is very good. They are polite and kind to each other, often sharing toys or helping the younger children to find particular toys. They are articulate, confident and flourish during their time spent with the childminder.

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

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the Early Years Foundation Stage	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	1
The effectiveness of the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement	1
The effectiveness of partnerships	1
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
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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	1
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

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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