

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	401916
Inspection date	07/03/2011
Inspector	Teresa Elkington
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 assesses 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 0300 123 1231, 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.

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.ofsted.gov.uk

© Crown copyright 2011

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 son aged 12 years in Maidenbower, Crawley, West Sussex. The ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding purposes where children have use of designated play room, dining area, lounge and kitchen. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time. She is currently caring for four children in the early years age group, all of whom attend on a part time basis. The childminder is registered on the Early Years register and both parts of the Childcare Register. The childminder walks or drives to local schools to take and collect children. She attends the local parent/toddler group. The family have Degus and a cockatiel. The childminder is a member of a local childminder support group.

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is outstanding.

Children are cared for by a highly experienced childminder who has an astute understanding of the individual characteristics and needs of the children, which enables her to work very effectively to meet their learning and welfare needs. Children thrive in the exceptionally well organised child-friendly setting, which enables them to make choices, develop their independence, and access a wealth of stimulating learning and play opportunities. The childminders practice is exceptionally well supported through the positive relationships with both parents and other settings ensuring excellent channels of communication are in place to fully support both the welfare and learning needs of children. A reflective approach enables the childminder to evaluate her level of provision and gain a full understanding of her strengths and weaknesses. She is fully aware of the need to continue self-evaluation in order to provide high quality care for children.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- refining the systems for self-evaluation in order to maintain continuous improvement

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

Children's welfare is rigorously monitored and safeguarded through well-implemented operational policies and procedures. The childminder has an exceptional knowledge of and understanding safeguarding issues which enables her to respond effectively to any concerns that she may have. Thorough risk assessments have been undertaken for all aspects of the service provided, which aids the childminder in identifying potential risks with the immediate environment and beyond. The childminder places high emphasis on children's health and well being. She employs rigorous hygienic working practices and shows a good understanding of how to manage accidents and illness.

The childminder evaluates her provision constantly and shows a continued commitment to provide the best outcomes for all children in her care. She acknowledges that in order for her to continue to provide high level of care, she needs to continuously reflect on her practices and self-evaluate effectively. The childminder is highly skilled in interacting with the children at their developmental level and providing equal opportunities for all children to engage in the activities provided. They are surrounded by an extensive range of toys and resources which are in excellent condition, accessible and very successfully promote positive images, ensuring that children are active and inquisitive learners.

Partnership with parents is exemplary. Excellent channels of communication ensure that all necessary information is shared, enabling the childminder to consistently meet the welfare needs of each child. Parents have access to a comprehensive, well maintained portfolio, which provides a wealth of information in support of the service provided. Parents are kept fully informed of their child's stage of learning to ensure a cohesive approach to children's development. The childminder has excellent systems in place to enable her to work in liaison with other early years providers for the benefit of the children. As a result consistency is very effectively promoted.

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

Children flourish and make exceptional progress in their learning and development. The childminder provides an extremely caring environment and radiates a passion to provide the best possible care for children. She is committed, enthusiastic and innovative in creating a positive and enabling play and learning environment.

Successful planning, taking very good account of children's interests, means that all children are engaged and making excellent progress in their learning and development. Systems for observation and assessment of children's learning and development are comprehensive, which results in well focused learning and development programme that is tailored to meet their individual needs.

Children enjoy a wealth of purposeful play activities which supports all areas of their learning. They thoroughly enjoy play alongside one another and have formed positive relationships. Children's creative flairs are actively encouraged as they source a wealth of role play resources which enables them to act out familiar

scenarios which is exceptional well supported by the childminder. The childminder actively uses incidental opportunities to fully enhance children's awareness of mathematical concepts, for examples they look at colours as the toys washing machines go round and discuss the colours of the bikes that they are using.

Children's awareness of sustainability is well promoted as they enjoy growing a range of produce within the garden which they tend and harvest. Children enjoy using a wide and inviting range of technological equipment which promotes their skills for the future. Access to books and mark making materials is exceptional and fully promotes children's skills of communication as they learn about the written word.

Children develop a high understanding of healthy living and good hygiene practices. They receive nutritious meals which are provided in consultation with parents and take into account individual dietary requirement. Children are encouraged to wipe hands and faces after meals which they do spontaneously as they leave the table, showing that good hygiene routines are well embedded.

Children enjoy a daily programme of outside activities, they participate in daily walks, play times in the well resourced garden and visits to local parks. In addition to these outdoor pursuits, children enjoy a carefully balanced range of community based activities with the childminder. For example, weekly attendance at childminding groups introduces children to a bigger peer group and helps to encourage social skills.

The childminder plans activities to encourage and develop children's awareness of diversity, They have excellent opportunities to explore their own traditions and those of others. Children show excellent social skills, playing harmoniously with their friends because the childminder places importance on sharing and caring for each other. Children are well-mannered due to the childminder's careful role-modelling. Consequently, all children show they are very polite as they routinely use please and thank you. Overall, children are well settled and comfortable within their surroundings and within the warm and nurturing care expertly provided by 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
--	---

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

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
--	-----