

Inspection report for early years provision

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Inspection date	07/04/2011
Inspector	Hazel Farrant
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 2002. She lives with her husband and two children aged eight and five years old in a residential area close to Sheerwater, Woking in Surrey. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's house is used and an upstairs bedroom is used for sleeping purposes. There is an enclosed secure garden available for outside play. Access to the property is at street level. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children, three of which may be in the early years age range. She is also registered on both the voluntary and compulsory parts of the Childcare Register. There are currently three children on roll, who are all in the early years age range. The property is close to local schools, shops and other community amenities. They have one hamster and fish as family pets. The childminder collects children from the local school and attends toddler groups. The childminder has completed a National Vocational Qualification level 3 in childcare and 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 a caring, inviting and inclusive environment for children and their parents. She liaises closely with the parents to ensure consistency and that the children's welfare is well-maintained. Systems in place to evaluate the provision include input from the children and their parents. The childminder shows a strong commitment to improving her practice on an ongoing basis. Overall, children's needs are considered and met well.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- update the record of risk assessments to include any assessments of risks for outings and trips, detailing when it was conducted
- develop effective systems for involving parents in contributing to the observation, assessment and planning
- continue to carry out regular evacuation drills and record details in a fire log book of any problems encountered and how they were resolved.

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder has a sound understanding of safeguarding procedures and clearly understands her role in reporting any concerns. She knows of her responsibility to ensure that all people living in the house are made known to Ofsted and are

appropriately vetted. All areas within the home are safe and secure for children as a result of daily visual checks and the childminder maintains a full record of the risk assessment covering anything with which a child may come into contact. She carefully considers children's safety whilst on outings and visits but not all outings have been formerly risk assessed, consequently children's welfare is not fully promoted. Children's records and documentation required for the efficient management of the service are well-maintained and organised.

Children begin to develop their independence as they choose from a variety of activities that are easily accessible and attractively stored in the conservatory. Children gain an understanding of other people through going out into the local community and celebrating festivals, thus promoting equality and diversity. Resources are mainly stored in labelled translucent boxes in well-organised storage systems in the conservatory. The childminder also uses pictures on the resource boxes to ensure all children know what is available to them, thus promoting equality and diversity.

Good quality policies and procedures are made available to parents and carers. These give clear information of the service provided by the childminder. Verbal reports and the sharing of daily diaries containing a record of the care routine as well as photographs of the children at play keep parents well informed of their child's day. Recorded comments show that parents value highly the standard of support, care and learning given to their children. They provide information about their children's care needs, interest and preferences at the beginning of the care agreement. These details enable the childminder to plan appropriate activities from the outset. The childminder is gaining an awareness of the need to share information about children's activities and achievements with other provisions they attend.

The childminder monitors and evaluates the provision to ensure that improvements are made where necessary. Views of parents and children are sought as part of this evaluation. Children's care, safety and welfare are promoted well as the childminder continues to update her professional skills through meeting with other childminders to share good practice and through research using reading materials and the internet. The childminder has successfully addressed the recommendations set at her last inspection.

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

Children's welfare is promoted effectively. The childminder ensures that she retains a current paediatric first aid qualification in order to administer appropriate treatment if children suffer minor injuries. Children's dietary needs are met as the childminder is fully aware of their requirements and provides them with healthy, nutritious meals and snacks. Babies are encouraged to help feed themselves with suitable cutlery and obviously enjoy the experience. The childminder has recently started to grow her own vegetables and plans are in place to include children in the activity. There are many opportunities for children to play outside in the fresh

air either in the garden or at the local park. They are taken on regular trips into the local community, such as visiting local groups or to a nearby farm. Children learn about their personal safety. For example, they learn about road safety and emergency evacuations are completed regularly. However, the records kept of evacuation drills do not detail any problems encountered and how they were resolved to further support children's safety.

The childminder's positive interaction during children's play ensures they have a positive attitude to learning and enables them to develop good skills for the future. The childminder is a good role model to the children who receive meaningful praise and encouragement as they play which helps them to develop a good level of self-esteem, thus promoting good behaviour. She has a secure understanding of how children learn and recognises the importance of using observations of children to plan the next steps in their learning. Parents have good access to their child's development records. However, currently parents do not have the opportunity to be involved in contributing to the observation, assessment and planning for their own child.

The childminder interacts warmly and effectively with the children, asking questions to make them think and to support and promote their early language and communication skills. Children's enjoyment of books is evident as they help themselves to a range of age appropriate books that are at their level. They particularly like listening to well known songs and nursery rhymes, bobbing up and down to the rhythm. They look to the childminder to join in with role play as they place the receiver to their ear and giggle when she replies. Children have good opportunities to take part in arts and crafts, some of which are included in their developmental records. Children's knowledge and understanding of the wider world is promoted through discussion and involvement in craft activities.

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

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the Early Years Foundation Stage	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	3
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	2
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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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