

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	125858
Inspection date	13/05/2011
Inspector	Sue Taylor
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 1987. She lives with her husband and child aged 15 years in Southborough, close to shops, parks, schools and public transport links. Only the ground floor of the childminder's home is used for childminding and there is an enclosed garden for outdoor play. The family have a dog, two guinea pigs and a cat.

The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and the compulsory part of the Childcare Register to care for a maximum of six children under eight years at any one time, of whom no more than three may be in the early years age range. The childminder is currently minding four children in the early years age range, in part time places.

She is also registered by Ofsted on the voluntary part of the Childcare Register to provide care for children over the age of eight years.

The childminder currently supports children who speak English as an additional language.

The childminder collects children from the local school and preschool. She is not registered to provide overnight care.

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is satisfactory.

A safe and caring, homely environment is provided for children. Children are making some progress towards the early learning goals but the current systems in place to support and develop this area are limited. As a result, there is little emphasis on identifying next steps or involving parents and others in children's learning. The required documentation is in place and parents are well-informed about the childminder's practices. Self-evaluation is limited but future plans are likely to bring about some improvement to the provision.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- improve systems to show how well children are progressing towards the early learning goals from their starting points that enables any achievement gaps to be identified and narrowed
- develop the current assessment process and identifying of children's next steps, encouraging more involvement from parents in their child's learning and strengthen links with other settings providing the Early Years Foundation

Stage for relevant children to support continuity of learning and care.

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder's home is safe and secure with potential hazards minimised. For example, a safety gate is at the kitchen door and a high bolt is on the garden gate. The required risk assessment record is in place and includes children's safety when on outings. The childminder has a good overall knowledge of how to safeguard children, confidently knowing what action she needs to take in the event of a child protection issue. Relevant information and guidance is at hand.

The childminder is aware of her strengths and that some of her practices require development. Overall, she supports children's awareness of equality and diversity. Children are valued as individuals and any specific need is met. She has a general overview of how well children are progressing in their learning, based on her knowledge of children's development. However, there is no effective process of monitoring children's progress across the areas of learning from their starting points. As a result, it is not easy for achievement gaps to be identified and narrowed.

Resources are of good quality and variety, used to support children's learning and development. Children are able to easily access these, make choices. They show sustained involvement as they play on their own or with the childminder. The use of some resources that reflect positive images of others, helps children gain an understanding of the wider world.

Partnerships with others are satisfactory. However, communication with other providers delivering the Early Years Foundation Stage for particular children is less effective in helping to support children's progression and continuity of learning. The childminder has a positive relationship with parents who indicate they are happy with the care their children receive. Communication tends to be verbal unless sharing the children's record of activities and observations. However, less is shared about a child's identified next steps and how parents can be involved in their child's learning.

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

Overall, children are making progress and enjoy their time at the childminder's. The childminder has a developing awareness of the Early Years Foundation Stage and records some good observations as children play and summaries of children's achievements. However, there are no links made to the areas of learning or development stages. The systems in place are limited and few next steps are identified or effectively planned for.

Children confidently make choices about the play they engage in. For example,

children have fun as they play with the car and train track resources. A recent purchase of suitcases filled with varied dressing up clothes has proved very popular. As a result, children's imaginative play is promoted well. The resources including books are easily accessed by children. The outdoor area is used for play in the fresh air and children benefit from regular walks in the woods with the dog. Mixing with other minded children helps them to positively interact with different people. Overall, children are making satisfactory progress in securing skills for the future. Children make some decisions about their learning and are beginning to show some understanding of the society in which they live and the wider world.

Children develop a strong sense of how to stay safe. They learn how to keep safe when out and about or practise fire drills. Good quality interaction and well organised routines help children to become secure and confident with the childminder. Children display a strong sense of belonging and security with the childminder. They appear very settled and happy. Children are confident, showing good levels of self-esteem and build strong relationships. Their behaviour is very good.

Children gain an awareness about healthy lifestyles. They follow appropriate personal hygiene routines, for example, they wash their hands before meals with their own flannel to use for hand drying that helps prevent cross infection. They enjoy opportunities to engage in physical activities, both indoors and out. Children have easy access to their drinks and are able to control their own thirst needs. Overall, children's health, physical and dietary needs are adequately met.

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	3
The effectiveness of safeguarding	2
The effectiveness of the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement	3
The effectiveness of partnerships	3
The effectiveness of the setting's engagement with parents and carers	3

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	3
The extent to which children achieve and enjoy their learning	3
The extent to which children feel safe	2
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 statement of procedures to be followed for the protection of children, intended to safeguard the children being cared for from abuse or neglect (arrangements for safeguarding children) (also applies to the voluntary part of the Childcare Register). 27/05/2011

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:

- take action as specified for the compulsory part of the Childcare Register (arrangements for safeguarding children). 27/05/2011