

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	130989
Inspection date	21/07/2011
Inspector	Alison Weaver

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.

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Description of the childminding

The childminder has been registered since 2000. She has a childcare qualification. She lives with her three children aged 11, nine and eight years. They live in a house in Sompting near to schools, parks and shops. The majority of the ground floor of the property is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. There are steps into the home and in the outdoor area. The childminder has one cat.

The childminder is registered 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. She is currently minding one child in this age group. She also offers care to children aged over five years to 11 years. This provision is registered by Ofsted on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. The childminder attends local carer and toddler groups on a regular basis.

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy, settled, well occupied and make satisfactory progress in relation to their starting points although the childminder has not fully exploited the use of her formal learning records in assessing and planning for every child's continued development. Documentation to support and safeguard children's welfare does not all meet the legal welfare requirements but, overall, children stay safe and in good health due to the childminder's everyday practices and to most hazards being effectively minimised. Links with parents are friendly and informal and there is a regular exchange of information about the child's welfare and development that helps promote their well-being and learning. The childminder shows a satisfactory commitment to continually improving outcomes for children.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- obtain prior written permission for each and every medicine from parents before any medication is given (Safeguarding and promoting children's welfare) (also applies to both parts of the Childcare Register) 25/07/2011
- provide parents with information about the safeguarding children policy (Safeguarding and promoting children's welfare) 29/07/2011

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

- update the record of risk assessment to include any assessments of risks for every type of outing and trip
- develop further the systems for the ongoing assessment of individual children's progress in their learning and development and use it to identify and plan relevant learning priorities
- improve safety with regard to the security of the outdoor area.

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder has a satisfactory knowledge of correct safeguarding procedures and what action to take if she suspects a child is being abused or neglected. She has sufficient awareness of how to identify signs and symptoms of abuse. Most steps are taken to minimise hazards and keep children safe in the home and on outings. Resources and the environment are kept in generally good condition so that children do not come to any harm. The resources are used well to support children's learning. However, the outdoor area is not fully secure as there is a gap in the side fencing with no gate to prevent unauthorised access to the children and to prevent a child getting out into the street.

The childminder has appropriate procedures for keeping children safe on outings. However, she has not included within her record of risk assessment her assessment of risks for every type of outing to fully ensure she has identified and effectively minimised all risks to children. Her record of administration of medication does not meet the welfare requirements as, although parents tell her verbally about the medication they wish their child to be given, the childminder does not get their prior written consent to administer it and to prevent over dosage to a child. All other required documentation is in place and adequately maintained, helping to promote children's individual welfare and meet their needs.

The childminder forms satisfactory partnerships with parents. They are given some helpful information about her childcare provision and policies so that, in general, they know what to expect. However, the childminder has breached the legal welfare requirements by failing to make parents aware of her safeguarding procedure. Parents are encouraged to share what they know about their child and about their home backgrounds. The childminder uses this information successfully to help settle children and meet their individual needs. She encourages children to value and respect diversity by providing activities that help them learn about the wider world.

The childminder makes good use of a daily diary with parents to keep them sufficiently well informed about their child's day and achievements. She regularly shares the learning records with parents so they know how well their child is developing. The childminder is aware of the need to work closely with other providers and agencies who share the care and education of individual children to promote continuity and provide the necessary support to help every child achieve.

The childminder has a satisfactory awareness of her strengths and weaknesses. She takes some steps to tackle areas needing development by accessing websites, books on childcare and attending the required first aid course. She informally evaluates her practices as she goes along to see if what she provides benefits children in her care.

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

Children enjoy their time with the childminder as she is warm, caring and friendly. She interacts well with the children as they play to promote their learning and development. The childminder has satisfactory systems for assessing their progress towards the early learning goals and for the informal identification of relevant learning priorities for each child. She gets to know the children well and provides a suitable range of activities that challenge and stimulate them appropriately so that they make sound progress. Whilst with the childminder, children develop the skills they need for their future learning.

Children show they feel safe and secure as they confidently leave the childminder's side to explore their surroundings and the resources. They are building positive relationships with adults and respond well to them using smiles, sounds and gestures. They try to copy the childminder's words and actions as they look at the feely books together. Children clap their hands as they achieve and enjoy the attention of adults. They behave well and learn to take turns as they play. The childminder has appropriate strategies for managing any unacceptable behaviour.

Children enjoy investigating the toys and work out that one action has an effect on others as they repeat the action. They have fun pressing the dog's nose to make it speak. Children's independence and physical mobility are developing well as they reach out for toys they like and want. They look under items and try to pull things, showing good coordination. They have fun using the beater to make sounds with the xylophone.

Children develop an understanding of healthy lifestyles through the everyday routines and practices. They are encouraged to eat healthily and have easy access to drinking water. They adopt appropriate personal hygiene routines and take part in daily physical activities outdoors in the fresh air. Young children also enjoy opportunities to visit soft play areas where they learn to use their bodies in different ways on larger play equipment. Older children are helped to develop their awareness of how to stay safe when they go on outings.

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	3
The effectiveness with which the setting promotes equality and diversity	3
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	3
The effectiveness of the setting's engagement with parents and carers	3

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	3
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:

- produce a written statement of procedures to be followed to safeguard children being cared for from abuse or neglect and make it available to parents (Arrangements for safeguarding children) (also applies to the voluntary part of the Childcare Register) 29/07/2011
- take action as specified in the early years section of the report (Records to be kept). 25/07/2011

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 in the compulsory part of the Childcare Register section of the report (Arrangements for safeguarding children) 29/07/2011
- take action as specified in the early years section of the report (Records to be kept). 25/07/2011