

Inspection report for early years provision

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Inspection date	05/08/2011
Inspector	Judith Reed
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 registered in 1993. She lives with her husband near Blackwater in Surrey. The property is close to local schools and amenities and there is a park nearby. Children have access to part of the ground floor of the home; there is a downstairs cloakroom and the sitting room is used for sleeping purposes only. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time; of these, three may be in the early years age range. She is currently minding three children in this age group. She also offers care to children aged five to 11 years. The childminder is registered by Ofsted on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register.

The childminder attends a local carer and toddler group on a regular basis.

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is outstanding.

Children's development is supported exceptionally well by this very experienced childminder. She continually evaluates her childminding provision and updates her training regularly, ensuring continuous improvement of the childcare provision. The childminder builds excellent professional relationships with parents and partnerships with some other professionals. Equality and diversity is very well promoted.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- developing positive relationships with other early years providers to enhance progression and consistency for children

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

Children are safeguarded. The childminder is very experienced regarding safeguarding issues and fully aware of her duty to report any issues or concerns. She keeps parents fully informed about procedures through her policy and discussion when children commence in her care. The childminder keeps her knowledge up to date through training and reading documentation. Thorough risk assessments are in place for the home, garden and outings. The childminder keeps children safe through the use of safety equipment, including stair gates and child

locks. She is particularly aware of the risks regarding household chemicals and ensures these are carefully locked away at all times. All adults living in the home have completed the required suitability checks. The childminder ensures all necessary records are in place and up to date.

Parents complete contact information documentation and have contracts with the childminder to further ensure children's safety. Parents sign to give permission for the childminder to request emergency medical advice or treatment. Parents view their children's learning and development records regularly and are made fully aware of the Early Years Foundation Stage. They report that they value the daily diaries provided by the childminder, which contain useful information regarding their child. Parents state they are very happy with the care provided by the childminder and know their children gain confidence and interact with others. Children are settled and the childminder is flexible according to the needs of the family. Parents value the informal discussion with the childminder at the end of the day to talk over any issues. The childminder liaises with external agencies to ensure children receive the support needed regarding any special educational needs and/or disabilities. She also builds some links with a local pre-school to help support children's development, however, further communication is necessary to enhance progression and consistency for the children.

The childminder continually evaluates her childminding provision to ensure she provides high quality care for children. She is focused on improvement and development of her practice and is open to and receives regular feedback from parents. She continually investigates ways to improve her provision and plans continuous development. The childminder is motivated, manages her time well and is very professional.

Improvements to promote equality and inclusion have had a beneficial impact on all children. They enjoy viewing a variety of exceedingly high quality books that help them learn about their rights and diverse needs, including freedom and refugees. Children value other cultures and make a positive contribution. Children play with an aboriginal doll from Australia. They see examples of aboriginal paintings and have a go at painting in their patterns and style.

Resources are available at all times and are well used by the children, who move around and make choices about their activities. They choose books from the low level book rack and help themselves to musical instruments from a storage box. The childminder ensures all resources are suitable for the age and stage of the children present. She updates her resources and rotates toys, managing resources extremely well.

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

The childminder supports children's learning and development by being well aware of the individual needs of those in her care. She talks to parents and has several introductory sessions, which help set the starting points for their child's

learning journey. Highly effective planning is in place for each child and information from observations and assessments is used to plan ongoing activities. The childminder makes regular observations of children's experiences and sets next steps for their development. These are used to guide planning of activities; although the childminder remains flexible according to the needs of the children and the environment. From her careful observations the childminder knows children are developing along the Early Years Foundation Stage. The childminder provides exceedingly good quality learning and development outdoors through a range of physical play resources and gardening activities. Children are involved in growing and nurturing fruit and vegetables that include strawberries, runner beans and tomatoes. They observe the changing seasons and thoroughly enjoy walking in the fields next door to watch wildlife. This is extremely effective in supporting: children's learning in knowledge and understanding of the world; communication language and literacy; physical development; and personal, social and emotional development. The childminder helps children to flourish by encouraging them to join in exciting cooking activities. They create delicious cakes for Christmas, which are gifts for their families. Children frequently visit local Sure Start centres where they enjoy creative activities and making friends. The childminder attends a local childminding group with the children and they often enjoy picnics together.

Children's good health and general well being is very effectively promoted through a number of appropriate policies and procedures. The childminder is acutely aware of healthy eating guidelines and ensures children have fresh and healthy meals and snacks. Fruit and vegetables are often grown in her own garden and children help to gather the produce. Children also learn about healthy eating by joining in cooking activities. The childminder has registered her business with the local authority environmental health department. She promotes a positive view of a healthy lifestyle through regular walks and fresh air. The childminder ensures children learn good hygiene routines. She helps to prevent cross infection by providing individual hand drying towels in the downstairs toilet and a sign showing children how to wash their hands thoroughly. She ensures children learn good habits. The childminder follows excellent procedures when changing nappies. She wears gloves to protect herself and the children from infection and Individual changing equipment is used.

Children learn about keeping themselves safe by taking part in regular fire evacuation drills. They comprehensively understand how to keep safe and dangers that may be around. They learn safe play practice and a topic regarding anti-bullying is included for older children. Good behaviour is encouraged through praise and encouragement. Children are thanked for their thoughtfulness and this helps to develop their self-esteem. They learn to take turns and share equipment. The childminder helps children to develop empathy with others and understand their needs, this promotes positive personalities. Children develop valuable skills for their future. The childminder supports children's use of information and communication technology for research and occasional games. She states that all children are actively encouraged to explore their environment and do their best at any activity. She helps to develop ideas and skills. The childminder stretches children's imagination through activities, helping them acquire skills they will need throughout life. She is very positive and talks to the children about things they see and places they visit. She challenges them with questions to encourage their

thinking and helps children be inquisitive. This all leads to enthusiastic learning and better outcomes for children.

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	2
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