

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	126009
Inspection date	26/08/2009
Inspector	Stacey Sangster

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.

Description of the childminding

The childminder was registered in August 2002. She lives with her partner and adult daughter in Tenterden. The ground floor of the premises is used for childminding and an upstairs bedroom is used for sleeping. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register, the compulsory part of the Childcare Register and the voluntary part of the Childcare Register. She is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time, of whom no more than three may be in the early years age range and only one of these may be under a year. She is currently minding 11 children aged between one and nine years on a part-time basis.

Schools, pre-schools, toddler groups, shops and parks are within walking distance.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is satisfactory. The childminder provides a service which supports children's development adequately, but this is weakened by her lack of engagement with the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) framework, introduced in September 2008, which all registered providers have a legal responsibility to deliver.

Generally the standard of the policies produced some years ago are satisfactory, but a failure to review and update them has left two pieces of documentation no longer meeting the legal requirements.

The childminder evaluates her practice in relation to looking for new and improved ways to occupy and interest children and this supports her meeting children's individual needs. Her evaluation and review of her practice in relation to the documentary or legal requirements of her registration is weak.

The partnership with parents is stronger in relation to care and welfare than in education.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- document the observations, assessment and planning
- improve the arrangements for self evaluation to enhance the opportunities for continual improvement

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

- produce a record of the risk assessment in line with EYFS requirements (Safeguarding and welfare) 03/10/2009
- produce a system to record medication in sufficient detail to meet the requirements of the EYFS (Promoting good health) 03/10/2009

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder attended training in the past on a more regular basis, but since her last inspection four years ago has only attended mandatory training in relation to maintaining her paediatric first aid qualification.

The lack of attendance at training offered to support the childminder's knowledge of the introduction of the EYFS has impacted negatively on her service and in addition her failure to update her policies or recording systems, even when she suspected they were no longer sufficient, such as in the case of her medication recording systems has left her leadership and management of her service as weaker than other areas of her service.

There is no written record of the risk assessments carried out, which is a legal requirement of the Early Years Register. However, the childminder has carried out an informal risk assessment and made her home and outings safe.

The childminder is able to demonstrate that she has satisfactory awareness of how to respond to child protection concerns, although her written policy is basic.

The partnership with parents in relation to sharing details about the children's welfare is strong and well established. The partnership in relation to sharing information about the children's development and education is emerging but not yet fully embedded in her practice.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children enjoy the time spent with this childminder; they are kept well occupied with a range of activities, routines and outings that the childminder knows they will enjoy and which help them to build on what they know as well as develop new skills.

Warm and caring interaction between the childminder and children helps them to feel secure and welcome in her home. The childminder encourages independence and supports children to develop skills that help them integrate with others, such as sharing and turn taking. She gets to know the children well and uses information provided by parents to support her in caring for their diverse and constantly changing welfare needs.

The children are supported appropriately to make progress at a pace which suits

each child's individual learning style, although currently no links are being made to the EYFS and observations, assessment and planning carried out by the childminder are all informal and not recorded anywhere. This lack of record keeping and engagement with the EYFS limits the purpose of the EYFS to provide a seamless transition between providers and later school. The failure to record children's progress makes assessment less effective and as the childminder is not comparing children's progress to the EYFS guidance, she is unable to assess if there are any gaps or weaknesses in the delivery of learning opportunities she offers in relation to the six areas of learning.

Children behave well for the childminder; they receive gentle reminders to demonstrate polite manners such as asking to leave the table after lunch and to say please and thank you. The behaviour management strategies and policy are appropriate and include confirmation that no physical punishments are threatened or used.

Children's health is promoted by the hygiene routines encouraged by the childminder; children remember to wash their hands before eating and after using the toilet and are beginning to understand how this supports a healthy lifestyle. The childminder does not care for children who have a contagious illness and this further supports reducing the risk of cross-infection.

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

Overall effectiveness

How effective is the provision in meeting the needs of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage?	3
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	3
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	3

Leadership and management

How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?	3
How effective is the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement?	3
How well does the setting work in partnership with parents and others?	3
How well are children safeguarded?	3

Quality and standards

How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?	3
How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?	3
How well are children helped to stay safe?	3
How well are children helped to be healthy?	3
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	3
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	3
How well are children helped develop skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being?	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:

- make available to parents a written statement that provides details of the procedure to be followed if they have a complaint (Safeguarding and welfare) 03/10/2009
- improve the safeguarding children policy and reflect this in the written policy to meet the compulsory part of the Childcare Register (Arrangements for Safeguarding Children) 03/10/2009

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:

- improve the safeguarding children policy and reflect this in the written policy to meet the compulsory part of the Childcare Register (Arrangements for Safeguarding Children) 03/10/2009
- make available to parents a written statement that provides details of the procedure to be followed if they have a complaint (Safeguarding and welfare) 03/10/2009