

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	160823
Inspection date	13/03/2009
Inspector	Doreen Forsyth
Type of setting	Childminder

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 report includes information on any complaints about the childcare provision which Ofsted has received since the last inspection or registration whichever is the later, which require Ofsted or the provider to take action in Annex C.

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).

Children only attend this setting before and/or after the school day and/or during the school holidays. The judgements in this report reflect the quality of early years provision offered to children during those periods.

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 2002. She lives with her husband and two school-aged sons in a semi-detached house in the village of St Mary Bourne, near Andover, Hampshire. All of the home may be used for childminding. There is an enclosed rear garden for outside play.

The childminder is register on the Early Years Register and on the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register to provide care for up to six children under the age of eight, of these, three may be in the early years age group. Currently there are six children on roll; five of whom are in the early years age group.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association. The family has three working dogs who live outside in kennels. The minded children have no access to the dogs.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is satisfactory. Children enjoy being with the childminder and are very settled and relaxed. The childminder values all children and ensures she supports all children so that no child is disadvantaged. Children are making some progress in their development but the childminder has a limited understanding of the learning and development requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage, which limits the children's potential progress. The childminder does not yet have any effective processes in place for monitoring and self-assessing the quality of the provision she provides and for evaluating the outcomes for children.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- improve the information shared with parents, so that they are kept well informed of their children's progress and about the service provided
- implement effective policies about ensuring equality of opportunities and for supporting children with learning difficulties and disabilities and safeguarding children.
- develop methods of self-assessment to identify any areas of improvement in the care and education provided for the children

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

- improve knowledge and understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage and the early years curriculum (Early learning goals) 16/05/2009
- put arrangements in place to assess children to 16/05/2009

ascertain their achievements and progress
(Assessment arrangements)

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder and her husband have been suitably vetted, she ensures that any unvetted adults do not have unsupervised access to the children. Most of the records, policies and procedures that are necessary to promote the children's safety, well-being and health are in place, although not many, except some that are mandatory, are recorded, and most are shared with parents on a verbal basis. The childminder has good risk assessments in place which help her to ensure her home is a safe environment for the children.

Children are provided with a suitable range of resources, these are mostly stored in a toy room upstairs, the childminder then chooses an appropriate selection for the children in her care that day. The childminder talks to the children's parents each day discussing the children's activities and achievements with them. The childminder has not yet made links with any other provision that the children attend to enable her to promote the integration of care and education. The childminder welcomes all children, and meets their individual needs regardless of their background, she promotes an inclusive practice.

The childminder had made improvement since her last inspection, she has met well the recommendations set then. She has informally identified some targets for improvement, such as obtaining more resources for outside play, but does not effectively monitor the provision she offers.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children mainly play in the childminder's lounge and kitchen areas with toys that the childminder has selected for the group of children attending each day. They usually go out most mornings to toddler or childminding groups, where the children have opportunities to meet with other adults and children. They also attend a soft play centre each week. Most of the children's opportunities for messy and creative play happen at the groups. They also play in the childminder's safe and enclosed rear garden and enjoy walks most days to the school in the village, often via the play parks. This provides children with good opportunities to play in the fresh air and develop their physical skills. They learn about their environment and the natural world as they explore the local countryside. Children are provided with balanced and healthy snacks, they can always access their own drinks. Parents provide packed meals for the children, these are appropriately stored.

The childminder knows the children in her care very well, she is able to explain where they are in their learning. However, the children's development is not recorded or assessed in any way and the childminder does not have a good understanding of the early learning goals, so she is not able to track the children's

progress, identify any areas where they may need help, or plan to ensure they are learning appropriately in all areas.

Children play in a safe and secure environment, the childminder ensures her home is warm and welcoming to children. She is confident in child protection issues and is able to put the correct procedures in place if necessary. She has built warm, loving relationships with the children, for example, they enjoy sitting on her lap to listen to stories. Children are well supported and have lots of good attention from the childminder, this helps to build their confidence and self-esteem and encourages them to behave appropriately. The children begin to learn about respecting the needs of others, the childminder encourages them to share, take turns and be considerate.

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?	4
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

Any complaints about the inspection or report should be made following the procedures set out in the guidance available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk

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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Annex C: complaint/s made to Ofsted

This section of the report includes details of any complaint/s made to Ofsted when:

- we took action for the provider to meet the requirements of the Early Years Register; or
- we asked the provider to take action in order to meet the requirements of the Early Years Register; or
- the provider had already taken any necessary action to meet the requirements of the Early Years Register.

We will not report on any complaint where the provider met the requirements of the Early Years Register or did not require any action by Ofsted or the registered provider.

Detail of the complaint/s

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the last inspection.

The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by parents, which they can see on request. The complaints record may contain complaints other than those made to Ofsted.