

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	510585
Inspection date	06/05/2009
Inspector	Lisa Ellis
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 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 registered in 2000. She lives with her husband and their three children who are all aged over eight years in a house in a residential area of Portchester, in Hampshire. The house is within walking distance to local parks, schools, pre-schools, library and shops. All areas of the property are used for childminding with the exception of the master bedroom. There is a fully enclosed rear garden available for outside play. The childminder has a pet dog and some tropical fish.

The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and the voluntary and compulsory parts of the Childcare Register to care for six children at any-one-time. She currently provides part-time care for six children, of whom five are in the early years age range.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is good. Children enjoy their time in the setting as the childminder knows them well as individuals and provides them with developmentally appropriate activities in and out of the home. The childminder has improved her provision by addressing the recommendations made at her last inspection and has attended training to ensure her knowledge of issues such as first aid and child protection are up-to-date to promote the welfare of the children.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- improve accident records to include times of incidents
- monitor activities to ensure children have regular opportunities to participate in a full range of experiences that cover all areas of learning

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder has begun a self-evaluation process which has highlighted the strengths of her setting and areas for improvement. She has identified additional training that she would like to attend which will benefit the children in her care and is looking ahead for further ways in which she can build on her good practice.

Partnerships with parents are secure as the childminder provides them with regular verbal feedback on how their children are progressing. Letters from parents show high levels of satisfaction with the care and education their children receive. Comments include how children are provided with a loving and caring environment and have developed into sensible well rounded individuals through nurturing learning experiences. Information is shared with other early years settings that the children attend to help promote continuity of care and to meet children's individual

needs.

Children are well safeguarded as they are cared for in a safe and secure environment which is risk assessed for potential hazards. They are never left with un-vetted people and are well supervised in the home and garden. As a result of attending refresher training, the childminder has updated her written child protection policy and has displayed information for parents to ensure they are aware of the procedures she would follow should she have concerns regarding individual children's well-being.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children benefit from taking part in activities in and out of the home. Each day they have opportunities to develop their social skills, for example, by interacting with other children at toddler groups, going on outings, visiting other childminder's and by attending story time at the local library. The childminder has cared for most of the children since they were young babies so has developed a very good understanding of their individual needs and the types of activities that interest them. Children are encouraged to be independent in the home, selecting their own resources and helping to pack them away again once they have finished.

The childminder interacts with the children as they play, helping them to make satisfactory progress in their learning and development by chatting to them about what they are doing, for example, talking about the colour and number of bricks they are using as they build a tower. As she knows them well, she is confident of the next steps in their individual development. However, she is not currently monitoring how well each area of learning is covered to ensure all children make continued progress at their own speed.

Children learn good procedures to help keep themselves safe, for example, by practising safe evacuation and learning about road safety. They learn to share and take turns as the childminder provides them with clear direction on what is expected and gives praise to encourage them for the future. Children are provided with daily fresh air and exercise and learn about healthy eating through visits to the local market where they shop for fresh fruit and vegetables.

All of the required paperwork is in place, with most of it maintained to a good standard. The childminder stores documentation confidentially and shares it with parents where necessary to meet the needs of the 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

Overall effectiveness

How effective is the provision in meeting the needs of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage?	2
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	2
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?	2
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?	2
How well are children safeguarded?	2

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?	2
How well are children helped to stay safe?	2
How well are children helped to be healthy?	2
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	2
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	2
How well are children helped develop skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being?	2

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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
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The provider confirms that the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register are:	Met
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