

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY245007
Inspection date	26/11/2009
Inspector	Lisa Paisley
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).

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.

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 was registered in 2003. She lives with her family in a house in Southend-on-Sea, Essex. All areas of the childminder's house are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time and is currently minding three children in the early years age group. The childminder also offers care to children aged over five years to 11 years. She walks to local schools to take and collect children and the childminder takes children on regular outings to the local toddler groups, parks and library. The family has a cat, hamster and two gerbils as pets.

This provision is registered by Ofsted on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association (NCMA) and she is an accredited childminder.

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is good.

Children in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) are making good progress in both their development and learning. The childminder has a very good understanding of both the welfare requirements and the learning and development requirements of the EYFS, consequently, she is very effective in meeting the individual needs of children in her care. The childminder successfully works in partnership with parents and has formed effective relationships with other providers delivering the EYFS. The self-evaluation process has contributed to her knowledge and understanding of the EYFS.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- review and revise planning and observation arrangements for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)
- review and develop further self-evaluation systems to ensure continuous improvement.

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

Documentation is of a good standard and is effectively organised to support the efficient and safe management of the provision. There are good policies and procedures in place to fully safeguard children and the childminder has a good

understanding of their responsibility in protecting children from harm and she knows what to do in the event of a concern. Parents are fully informed of the childminder's role in safeguarding children. Risk assessments for both indoors and for trips out are in place and are implemented on a daily basis to further promote children's safety and welfare. Good standards of cleanliness and effective safety measures are maintained throughout the play environment. The childminder is vigilant about the security of the children and monitors visitors to the premises. Routines including space, time and resources are organised effectively to ensure that children receive plenty of attention and support and their individual needs are consistently met.

The childminder has taken effective action to improve the overall effectiveness of the provision, and improvements have been made since the last inspection, this includes developing planning and observation arrangements. Consequently, children benefit greatly from the improvements that have been made within provision. The designated play area has a good range of high-quality, stimulating resources that are effectively deployed to allow children to choose with safety and independence. The provision is organised to ensure inclusion is effectively promoted, the childminder will make adjustments if required and resources, activities and celebrations reflect the wider world.

The childminder establishes good working relationships with all the parents. Good quality information is exchanged on a daily basis and there are very clearly written contracts and consent agreements regarding individual care needs. Parents are given copies of the policies and procedures, to ensure that they are fully informed about the childminder's role, although they are not yet fully engaged in the self-evaluation process. Complementary written comments were viewed and verbally parents expressed their satisfaction by commending the childminder's ability to provide a caring and learning environment that is safe and exciting for children, and also the childminder is very obliging and helpful in supporting families. The childminder effectively shares and gathers information with local settings delivering the EYFS to promote continuity of care for minded children.

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

Children are happy, settled and secure as the childminder effectively forms good relationships with the children and successfully creates an environment that values all individual children's needs and interests. Young children settle quickly as the childminder provides individual attention and close supervision in supporting children's play and learning. Children are given good opportunities to develop their language and communication skills as the childminder uses a range of descriptive language, open ended questioning and repeat key words. Children are encouraged to develop an appreciation of books and stories as there are lots of opportunities for children to access books, this includes regular visits to the local library. Regular trips are made to local toddler groups; park, beach and soft play centres, and there are trips further a field such as Hadleigh Castle helping children to learn about the world around them. The childminder is knowledgeable about each child's abilities and what they enjoy doing, as she skilfully anticipates and negotiates any

behaviour issues and there are clear house rules for children to follow. Consequently, children show respect towards each other and care about the learning environment.

The children take part in a variety of interesting planned activities or spontaneous events that effectively support all areas of learning, both indoors and outside. Children have daily opportunities to learn about early mathematical concepts, this includes counting activities and number rhymes. The childminder understands children's individual developmental stages and will focus on particular areas of their development, for example, physical skills in helping young children to walk. The childminder is beginning to develop planning and observation arrangements, however, there is no clear link between planning, observations and next steps in children's development to ensure that children make as much progress as they can.

Children develop a safe and healthy lifestyle through their daily routines, this includes the provision of healthy snacks and meals and children being reminded to wash their hands when needed. Emergency evacuation procedures are practised and a safety talk on outings is included as part of the risk assessment. The childminder has attended first aid training and therefore knows what to do in the event of an accident or when a child is unwell. The childminder is knowledgeable about individual children's dietary and medical needs as she gathers all the required information before the child starts the setting. Therefore children's health and well-being is fully supported.

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?	2
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement	2

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

How effectively is the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?	2
The effectiveness of leadership and management in embedding ambition and driving improvement	2
The effectiveness with which the setting deploys resources	2
The effectiveness with which the setting promotes equality and diversity	2
The effectiveness of safeguarding	2
The effectiveness of the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement	2
The effectiveness of partnerships	2
The effectiveness of the setting's engagement with parents and carers	2

The quality of the provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage

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Outcomes for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage

Outcomes for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage	2
The extent to which children achieve and enjoy their learning	2
The extent to which children feel safe	2
The extent to which children adopt healthy lifestyles	2
The extent to which children make a positive contribution	2
The extent to which children develop skills for the future	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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