

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY300408
Inspection date	04/03/2009
Inspector	Suzanne Joyce Stedman
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).

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 2005. She lives with her husband and three children, aged five, six and an adult daughter in Stanford le Hope, Essex. The whole ground floor and bathroom on the first floor of the childminder's house are used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The home is accessed via a step to the front and back door.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time and is currently caring for three children aged one, two and three years. The family has three cats.

The childminder supports children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register, compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is good. The childminder provides interesting experiences for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). She creates a safe and welcoming environment to ensure all children are included and enjoy their time in the setting; for example, she carries out regular risk assessments in and outside the home. The professional approach which the childminder presents contributes successfully to the development of good relationships between herself and parents, for example, she provides the parents with questionnaires every six months. The childminder has completed a self-evaluation of her service which was available on the internet. She has completed first aid training, 'Introduction to Childminding Practice', 'Sensory Workshop', EYFS, 'Food Safety in Catering' and various other childcare related courses to promote positive outcomes for children.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- put effective systems in place to ensure observation of children contributes to future planning of appropriate, sufficient and varied activities and experiences to enable children to make progress in all areas of their learning.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder has developed a good range of documents and practices to ensure continuous improvement and takes action to address any issues. Her professionalism has led to her providing a stimulating and welcoming environment for the children, with good care, education and support. Photographs of the children at various venues give children a sense of belonging. The arrangement of the equipment ensures children can freely access resources which leads to using

their own initiative to instigate play. Development sheets have been created to share with parents and the childminder intends to expand these in line with the EYFS. Inclusion and integration of all children is enhanced, as sleep patterns are followed. Copies of the policies and procedures are presented to parents and complaints information is available.

The childminder has a good understanding of her role and responsibilities in relation to safeguarding and has completed training. Children receive appropriate levels of supervision and individual attention.

Parents are encouraged to share what they know about their child and are well informed of their progress while attending the childminding setting. Partnerships with parents are effectively promoted and the childminder is aware she must liaise with external agencies or services to ensure children get the support they need if necessary.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The childminder supports learning well, enhancing children's ability skilfully. A good variety of resources are provided. There is planned, purposeful play and exploration, on site and on outings, with a balance of adult-led and child-led activities. The children receive an enjoyable experience across the six areas of learning. Observation sheets show a variety of play is enjoyed by the children and these are being developed to incorporate all areas of the early learning goals.

Children develop a positive awareness of self and their needs. They are aware of how to behave and share and are eager to learn in child-friendly surroundings. The childminder asks open-ended questions and children learn to communicate effectively. For example, while the child was playing with the play food, there was a general discussion about breakfast and lunch food. Celebrations and festivals are planned into the adult-led activities to enhance children's awareness of the wider world, for example, they celebrate St David's Day by making daffodils and had a pancake race on Shrove Tuesday. Children are encouraged to be active and healthy, developing competent skills of control and manipulation.

Children's good health and well-being are well promoted. The childminder teaches children to behave in ways that are safe for themselves and others. They understand the benefits of physical activity and enjoy playing outside in the well equipped outside play area. The childminder is aware to ensure children make progress in communicating and encourages the younger children to express themselves.

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.	2

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?	2
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?	2
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

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.