

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY311986
Inspection date	06/02/2009
Inspector	Rebecca Hurst
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 lives in a residential area of West Wickham, close to local transport links and shops. The childminder was registered in 2005 and lives with her husband and five children. She collects children from the local school. The whole ground floor of the house is used for childminding and one of the upstairs bedrooms is used for younger children who need a sleep. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The childminder regularly attends a toddler group and takes the children to nearby parks and the local library.

The childminder currently has four children on roll, all of whom are in the early years age group. She may care for no more than six children under eight years; of these, not more than four may be in the early years age group, and of these, not more than two may be under one year at any one time. The childminder is on the Early Years register and both the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The overall quality of the provision is good. Well developed knowledge of each of the individual needs of the children ensures that the childminder promotes all aspects of the children's welfare and learning with great success. Children are kept safe and secure at all times when at the childminder's and they enjoy learning about the safety of the world around them. On the whole, children's welfare is promoted effectively: good and robust relationships with parents and other providers ensure continuity in children's care, learning and development. Children achieve well as regular observations of children's interests and capabilities influence the purposeful activities they actively engage in. As a result, children are making good progress, given their age, ability and their starting points.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- update complaints procedure to include phone number and address of the regulator
- continue to enhance knowledge of the EYFS.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

Caring relationships are established with the children, and an inclusive and welcoming service is provided, which ensures children are settled and confident. The childminder has good knowledge of children's individual requirements and through effective liaison with parents and other providers, their individual needs are met as she values each child's uniqueness.

The childminder has established an informative portfolio to ensure parents are knowledgeable about the service she provides. There is a daily exchange of information with parents through the use of a daily diary, which informs parents of children's daily routines and activities. All documentation required for the safe and efficient management of the provision has been established. The complaints procedure does not contain the up-to-date contact information for the regulator. However, this does not pose a risk for the children.

The childminder has established an efficient system to monitor potential hazards within the environment through the use of a comprehensive risk assessment which minimises risks to the children. Children are protected on outings as the childminder has devised appropriate risk assessments of all outings.

Children's welfare is safeguarded as the childminder has a sound knowledge of child protection issues. Children's safety is further enhanced as the childminder has a comprehensive policy in place for fire procedures. The childminder ensures that all children are aware of the procedures to follow and has a list by the phone so children are aware of what they need to do and what they need to say to the operator.

The childminder is beginning to evaluate her early years provision and document the improvements she wishes to make, such as recording the SEF (self-evaluation form) to identify areas of further improvement. The childminder has created learning journals to record children's progression towards the early learning goals and systems for recording children's assessments are in place and informative.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The children benefit from a well organised room to support their learning. For example children make decisions about their play, selecting from a vast range of safe and challenging toys and resources. Through regular observations, the childminder is able to plan purposeful play to support children's interests, such as engaging children in role play activities. Children are safe, secure and confident in their surroundings and interact well with the childminder as they receive appropriate support and encouragement, which helps to develop their self-confidence and self-esteem.

The childminder interacts exceptionally well with the children to enhance and challenge their learning. For example, children listen carefully to the childminder as she explains things to them while they play with play dough and during a sticking activity, which require the children to use a glue stick, and cutters and stamps for the play dough. The childminder supports children in their play through explaining how to use the stamps and how to get the glue onto the paper. The childminder is developing a system of assessment to record children's progression in relation to the early learning goals, and is confident in identifying next steps in learning.

Children behave exceptionally well. They are very clear on limitations, boundaries and expectations. Behaviour is very well-managed as children are offered clear explanations, which are appropriate to the age and stage of development.

Children benefit from a well maintained environment where their health, hygiene and safety is encouraged through daily routines, from washing their hands before snacks and food to having the changing mat cleaned after each use. Children are protected as there are good systems in place to ensure the needs of children are met if an accident should occur. The childminder has an appropriate paediatric first aid qualification and all documents are shared with parents. Children have daily opportunities to be outside in the fresh air and to be active. Snacks and meals are healthy and nutritious and ensure the children's individual special dietary needs are catered for.

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.