

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY335551
Inspection date	14/01/2009
Inspector	Liz Margaret Caluori
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 2006. She lives with her parents and 12-year-old sister in a residential area on the outskirts of Hastings. She works with her mother who is also a registered childminder and with an assistant. Childminding generally takes place on the ground floor and there is also a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and both the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. When working alone, or when working with her mother or an assistant, she is permitted to care for six children under eight years at any one time and there are currently nine children in the early years age range on roll attending a variety of sessions. The childminder also provides care for children who are over eight years.

The childminder is accredited and has completed the Diploma in Home-based Childcare. She also receives support from the local authority.

The family has a dog and a hamster.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Children thrive in the stimulating, child-centred environment. They make excellent progress in their all round development as a result of the careful consideration given to identifying and meeting their individual needs. They are provided with an excellent range of activities and enjoy the freedom they receive to make choices and decisions. Children gain great benefit from the childminder's commitment to monitoring and improving her practice and to communicating openly with parents and carers.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

To further improve the high quality early years provision the registered person should consider:

- consider further developing the written child protection policy to include a greater depth of information

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder is highly committed to reviewing her practice to ensure that it continually reflects the needs of the children attending. She regularly attends training courses in order to improve her understanding of child development and her knowledge of effective childminding practices. She is an accredited childminder and holds the Diploma in Home-based Childcare. She has also attended training for the introduction of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and implemented

appropriate changes based on this. These changes have largely focussed on the procedures in place to assess and monitor children's progress. This has resulted in systems which are highly effective and which clearly identify children's developmental abilities and needs.

The childminder works very collaboratively with her colleagues. This ensures consistency and an effective exchange of communication. She also maintains extremely positive relationships with parents and carers. They are given a good range of information and are supported to understand the EYFS. They are encouraged to contribute observations from home which are used to help in planning the next steps for their child.

The childminder has attended an advanced child protection course which supports her to identify the potential signs and symptoms of abuse. She has a clear understanding of her responsibility to report any concerns that she may have. There is also a brief but clear written statement relating to child protection. This high level of commitment ensures that children are effectively safeguarded.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children play in a very comfortable, well presented and clean environment. The childminder has attended food hygiene training and offers a high level of support to children to develop their self care skills. They routinely wash their hands after using the toilet and before all snacks and meals.

Children learn how to keep themselves safe through activities and discussions with the childminder. They are given a good level of independence but also listen well to the information and advice they receive. There are clear boundaries in place which focus both on safety and behaviour. These are entirely appropriate for the children's age and levels of understanding. There are also written risk assessments in place which are regularly reviewed.

Children enjoy the freedom they receive to choose the activities that they wish to take part in. They confidently select from the excellent range of resources available and have no hesitation in asking for support from the childminder and her colleagues. Children are making extremely good progress in all areas as a result of the high quality of the activities on offer and the very careful planning to meet their individual needs. They enjoy a good mix of adult-supported and child-initiated activities which cover all areas of learning. The provision for them to develop creatively is particularly spectacular. They enjoy complex and imaginative role play games and also have access to an excellent range of art and craft materials.

The childminder and her colleagues plan their days very effectively to meet the differing needs of all the children attending. A typical day for the younger children includes an outing to a local place of interest such as the park or shops. There is also time for playing in the childminder's home during which children receive an excellent level of adult attention. Their general care needs are also given high priority with time set aside for snacks, drinks, rest or sleep. The childminder is extremely popular with the children and is particularly skilled at comforting them

when they have just woken up. They snuggle into her and take comfort from her warm, caring manner. This allows them the time they need to wake up and rejoin the activities.

Children are developing wonderful social skills. They have bonded extraordinarily well as a large, caring and harmonious group with each member secure in their place as they interact positively with friends from a wide age range. They are confident of their place within the home. This is very evident from the way that they expect and receive cuddles and attention from the adults and their relaxed and easy interaction with their friends. They form exceptionally good relationships with the childminder and her colleagues, the children of their own age as well as the older school-aged children. Overall, the environment is warm, caring, stimulating and fun.

Children are very skilfully supported to develop a range of skills which will help them in their future economic well-being. They are extremely well prepared to interact with people from throughout the community. They take part in discussions and activities which support them to learn about the lives and customs of people from a diverse range of backgrounds.

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?	1
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	1
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	1

Leadership and management

How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?	1
How effective is the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement?	1
How well does the setting work in partnership with parents and others?	1
How well are children safeguarded?	2

Quality and standards

How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?	1
How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?	1
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?	1
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	1
How well are children helped develop skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being?	1

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.