

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY350176
Inspection date	03/03/2009
Inspector	Janette Elaina Lockwood
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 2007. She lives with her children aged one and three years in Canewdon, near Rochford, Essex, close to parks and schools. Access to the property is via a low threshold. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding. She has a cat and a Labrador as pets.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time and is currently minding one child in the early years age group. 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.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision is satisfactory. The childminder provides sensitive care and suitable activities for children's learning and development. Some key elements of the learning and development requirements are missing to show how children are progressing in their development, but the childminder knows enough about the children attending to care for them properly and ensure inclusion through responding to them as unique individuals.

The childminder is becoming familiar with the welfare requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage although some documentation is not yet in place relating to safety and complaints. There is a capacity to maintain continuous improvement as the childminder seeks information and hopes to continue her training to find out new ways of working and keep up-to-date with current childcare practices.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- plan opportunities for regular outdoor learning.

To fully meet the specific requirements of the EYFS, the registered person must:

- undertake sensitive observational assessment in order to plan to meet young children's individual needs (Organisation) 24/03/2009
- conduct a risk assessment both indoors and outdoors and ensure that a full risk assessment is carried out for each outing undertaken (Safeguarding and welfare) 24/03/2009
- ensure there is a written complaints policy that is consistent with the welfare requirements. 24/03/2009

(Safeguarding and welfare)

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The provision is managed in a satisfactory manner for young children in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and the childminder is aware of the need to implement systems to help update her practices. She has read through the EYFS materials and completed her childminder training course which has equipped her with the underpinning knowledge for the sound management of her provision.

The childminder shows an understanding of basic self-evaluation to identify her strengths and weaknesses and is aware of the importance of regularly evaluating her own practices to continuously improve the service offered and to meet the individual needs of children.

The setting works in partnership with parents by keeping them informed regularly of any relevant information about their children and listening to their views and some notes relating to observations are occasionally sent home with the children. Records are kept clearly, the registration certificate is displayed and the childminder understands her conditions of registration, however, she does not have a complaints procedure in place to improve her partnership working.

Children are safeguarded because the childminder is aware of her responsibilities to protect children throughout her practices and understands the procedure to follow if she has any concerns about children.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

There are satisfactory opportunities for children to learn and develop through a broad range of free play together with some planned activities. For example, children show particular interest in sharing books with the childminder who talks to them about the pictures to help extend their language development. Further activities such as 'posting' shapes into the correctly shaped holes help them practise their hand-eye coordination and particular toys and resources that interest the children are provided to help them build on what they already know and can do.

There is currently little organised planning for each child although the childminder knows each child well enough to help them progress in their development, with occasional observations to evidence some of their achievements. However, not enough observations are carried out to identify and plan effectively for children's next steps in learning and there are few systems currently in place to show their progress towards the early learning goals.

The welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage is promoted taking account of the general and specific welfare requirements. Safety measures are in place to help keep children safe and to help children learn about safety in everyday

situations. However, although the childminder thinks about general safety, there are currently no risk assessments available for each specific outing or for the premises either indoor or out.

Children are encouraged to be healthy and there are measures to help prevent the spread of germs, for example, individual nappy changing mats are used and children are encouraged to wash their hands regularly. Meals provided are freshly prepared, nutritious and balanced, containing fruit and vegetables, to contribute to children learning the importance of eating five portions a day.

Routines allow children plenty of time to play and have opportunities to mix with other children so they learn to share the resources. The childminder supports their learning with a balance of child-initiated and adult-led activities and experiences with plenty of praise and encouragement in order to build their confidence so they develop a sense of trust and belonging.

The daily activities and routines contain elements which help children develop their communication, language and literacy skills. Furthermore, there are opportunities for their understanding of numeracy and information technology to emerge. These factors will help children to gain skills which will contribute to their future economic well-being.

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?	3
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	3
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?	3
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?	3
How well are children safeguarded?	3

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?	3
How well are children helped to stay safe?	3
How well are children helped to be healthy?	3
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	3
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	3
How well are children helped develop skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being?	3

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/registration

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.