

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY351467
Inspection date	12/11/2008
Inspector	Fran Fielder
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 in a second floor flat in the centre of Eastbourne with her husband and eleven year old child. The whole of the flat is used for childminding. The flat is close to shops, parks and the seafront.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of three children aged under eight years at any one time. She is currently caring for two children who are within the Early Years Foundation Stage. One child attends full time and the other on a part time basis. She is also registered on the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Child Care Register.

The childminder is able to take children to and collect them from local schools. She regularly attends toddler clubs and visits the library.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The childminder makes good provision for the children in the Early Years Foundation Stage. She gathers a wide range of information about children to ensure she meets their individual needs. She values children's home language and culture and liaises with translators so that communication with parents is clear. Young children are secure both physically and emotionally and the childminder's calm and sensitive nature ensures individuals learn and develop at their own pace. She reflects on her own practice and devises ways to improve the outcomes for children.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- continue to develop understanding of observations and how to use these to identify children's next steps for learning and development

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder has a comprehensive set of written policies and procedures that guide her in her daily practice and her records are carefully maintained. She is aware of her responsibility and makes sure parents understand her role in promoting and safeguarding children's welfare. She discusses all aspects of her practice with parents before they place their child and maintains good communications regarding children's achievements and developmental needs. Feedback from parents indicates good relationships and that the childminder is reliable, flexible and loved by the children for whom she cares. Parents are grateful for the service she provides.

The childminder shows commitment to training and enrolls on relevant courses as they become available. She is especially keen to further develop her understanding

of observations and how to use these to identify children's next steps in learning and development. Since registration, the childminder has become confident in planning activities that are based on children's interests. She is making regular observations and sharing these with parents.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The childminder's home is beautifully clean and well laid out. The very secure premises and regular risk assessments allow children to play and explore safely. Storage boxes have pictures and labels on them so that children can choose freely from a good range of age appropriate toys and resources. The childminder has a good understanding of the signs and symptoms of abuse and how to proceed if she has concerns. Children learn to keep themselves safe as the childminder teaches them to use crossings and reminds them not to approach animals at the park. She uses positive strategies to manage behaviour such as praise and reward stickers. This makes children feel good about themselves and helps them understand right from wrong. She is particularly keen to encourage good manners. Children enjoy nutritious meals and play outdoors every day. Regular park visits ensure plenty of fresh air and exercise that contributes to children's good health. Children go out in wet weather to splash in puddles and the childminder ensures they are suitably dressed for such activities.

The childminder has a gentle and calm approach which ensures babies and young children feel safe and comforted. Spontaneous cuddles from children indicate warm relationships. The childminder is expressive when talking to young children using different tones of voice that babies love to copy. She talks to young children about what they are doing which helps to develop vocabulary and early language skills. Observations show a good understanding of individual achievements. Children enjoy regular opportunities to mix with other children at toddler clubs and library visits encourage an interest in books from an early age. Young children love playing with musical instruments and experimenting with sound. They enjoy painting and making collages from leaves collected on outings.

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

The provider confirms that the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register are: Met

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 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.