

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY365435
Inspection date	04/11/2008
Inspector	Anne Nicholson
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 has been registered since 2008. She lives with her husband and three school-aged children in a residential area close to Mytchett, Frimley Green and Ash on the Surrey and Hampshire border. The property is close to local schools and amenities. The ground floor of the house is the main area used for childminding, with toilet facilities available on the first floor and provision for children to sleep available on both floors. There is a garden available for outside play as well as several parks nearby. The family have two pet dogs, a cat, two fish aquariums, two caged hamsters and four rabbits in an outside hutch.

The childminder is registered to provide care for a maximum of four children under eight years; of these, not more than three may be in the early years age group, and of these, not more than one may be under one year at any one time (Early Years Register, compulsory part of the Childcare Register). Currently there are six part-time attending children on roll, four of whom are on the Early Years Register and two of whom are on the compulsory part of the Childcare Register.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The childminder provides a welcoming and inclusive provision. She demonstrates a good knowledge and understanding of the needs and abilities of the children in her care and values their diversity. The childminder works in partnership with parents and other agencies to ensure that children with any additional needs receive outstanding support, enabling them to make excellent individual progress. The childminder has a secure understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and displays a positive attitude to continuous improvement; recognising areas for development and taking prompt action to address these. Her practice is well organised and supported by a good range of observations, assessments and documentation with only minor amendments required to meet the EYFS.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- update the complaints procedure to fully reflect new legislation and contact details for Ofsted

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

- carry out a full risk assessment for each type of outing, taking into account the nature of the outing, and review assessments before embarking on each specific outing (Suitable premises, environment and equipment)

02/12/2008

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder's leadership and management of the provision is effective and she strives for continuous improvement through regularly assessing her practice and documentation to see what is being done well and what needs to be improved. Many of the highlighted areas for development have already been addressed, for instance, re-landscaping the rear garden to make it easier for children to use throughout the year. The childminder has a very proactive attitude towards personal development and has attended additional training courses since registration, including EYFS workshops and Safeguarding Children training. Children's welfare is safeguarded because the childminder has a good understanding of child protection issues and has detailed risk assessment systems in place for her home, resources and nursery equipment. However, her records do not include an assessment of any outings undertaken with the children and the complaints procedure lacks some detail.

The childminder has a very positive and enthusiastic approach to childcare. She works hard to ensure that all attending children are achieving to their potential and uses observations and assessments to determine where children are developmentally so that she can plan activities and provide resources to ensure their continued progression. She liaises with parents and external agencies involved in the children's care to provide a cohesive approach and compliment the care they receive from other agencies and provisions. Parents receive comprehensive written information about the provision, including policy and procedure documents and participate in a home-setting diary system to record and share information. Parents are kept fully informed of their child's achievements and progress and take the written 'EYFS Learning Journey' home to look through and see examples of creative work and photographs of activities their children have participated in.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

There are effective practices and procedures in place to ensure children enjoy a healthy lifestyle. Children gain a good understanding of healthy practices through eating nutritious meals, meeting their individual dietary needs, and developing good personal hygiene skills through receiving clear instructions on hand washing and all using their own individual towels. The childminder's home is secure and safe for children, risk assessments are regularly carried out and she holds a current first aid certificate and parents are made aware of her sickness policy.

Children benefit from consistent and appropriate praise for their actions and behaviour and there is a range of age appropriate strategies for dealing with anything considered inappropriate behaviour. The childminder ensures that children appreciate diversity and develop a positive view of society and the wider world through celebrating festivals, activities and games. She keeps good records however, documentation relating to some policies requires updating.

The childminder creates a stimulating learning environment to help children

progress, and makes use of materials and resources found in the natural world and through doing planned and impromptu activities. Children enjoy going for daily walks in the local woods and parks nearby and walking along the canal looking at ducks and collecting leaves to be creative with. She provides a variety of both planned and child initiated activities and demonstrates a good understanding of the learning and development requirements. Observations and assessments carried out under the EYFS six areas of learning and development assist the childminder when planning and highlighting areas for children's future learning. Children enjoy going on walks, doing creative work involving sticking, gluing and colouring. They enjoy making crowns and objects that they can use within their play.

Children enjoy the childminder's company and interact well with her and each other, building good rapport. They receive lots of appropriate attention and encouragement during play and during times of uncertainty; for instance when unfamiliar adults are present. Children with additional needs receive excellent support and the childminder works in partnership with parents and other agencies to provide a consistent approach to their care and developmental requirements.

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?	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?	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 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.