

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY370291
Inspection date	28/10/2008
Inspector	Lynne Elizabeth Lewington
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 2008. She lives with her husband and two children in Hook, Hampshire. The ground floor of the childminder's house is used for play and a child's bedroom for rest. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play, level access to the premises and toilet facilities are on the first floor.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time, no more than three may be under five years. There are currently two children on roll. The childminder is registered on the Early Years, the Compulsory and the Voluntary parts of the Child Care register.

The childminder walks or drives to local schools to take and collect children. She attends the local children's activities. The family have three cats.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The childminder provides a good quality service where children's individuality is clearly recognised and met appropriately. Children are relaxed, happy and confident in a safe interesting homely environment where the childminder gets to know them very well. Positive relationships fostered with parents help to promote the children's sense of security within the setting. The childminder is confident in her role and realistic in her plans for further development indicating a good capacity to maintain continuous improvement.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- ensure the attendance record is accurate and clearly indicates the times children are cared for
- continue to develop an awareness and understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), including, observation, assessment and the areas of learning.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

Children and their families are clearly the focus of the childminder's work. Parents are made welcome and kept well informed through daily conversation, a daily diary and photo records of the children participating in activities. The childminder takes account of children's experiences and adapts her activities accordingly.

Generally the required documentation to meet the requirements of registration are clear and well maintained. However, currently the attendance record does not always provide an accurate record. The childminder has actively sought opportunities to develop her knowledge through training opportunities.

Continuous informal self evaluation enables the childminder to identify areas where she can make improvements. For example, she plans to gather more detailed information about children's individual interests, likes, dislikes and abilities before she starts to care for them in order to offer a more individual service. The childminder demonstrates a good knowledge of child development and how she can promote children's learning, however, currently she lacks confidence in relating this to the Early Years Foundation stage.

Comprehensive risk assessments along with a good awareness of individual children's abilities helps to ensure that children play in a safe environment and learn safe behaviours. The childminder's awareness of child protection and the action she would need to take indicate a good awareness of her role in safeguarding young children.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The dedicated attractive playroom provides an attractive area where children can easily access toys and resources independently. They have floor space to play comfortably in the lounge and they use the table for creative activities and mealtimes. The secure garden provides space for physical development with a range of suitable age appropriate toys.

Children enjoy a variety of experiences in the home and in the local community which support and help them to develop a positive sense of themselves and others. They learn to share, take turns and be kind to people and animals. The childminder encourages and praises children for their efforts, reinforcing their positive behaviours.

Children enjoy fact and fictional books and use them independently and with the childminder. Children talk and listen confidently with the childminder who shows genuine interest in what they say and listens and responds attentively. Children count spontaneously as they play; they talk about size and shape, make patterns and show some awareness of symmetry as they make butterfly patterns.

Knowledge and understanding of the world is encouraged well through outdoor experiences. For example, moving a slab in the garden provides the children with an opportunity to find many mini beasts. This simple activity also creates an opportunity for identification and counting. Children have good opportunities to develop their large physical skills as they play in the garden, visit parks, soft play areas and go swimming.

Creativity is encouraged positively through painting, singing action songs and role play. An attractive play kitchen and pretend food encourages the children to make meals and serve food. Children use their imagination, develop language skills and act out social experiences as they pretend to offer drinks and cook food.

Annex A: record of inspection judgements

The key inspection judgements and what they mean

Outstanding: this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality

Good: this aspect of the provision is strong

Satisfactory: this aspect of the provision is sound

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

Leadership and management

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

Quality and standards

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

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.