

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY379982
Inspection date	06/02/2009
Inspector	Teresa Elkington
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 partner and two children in Crawley, West Sussex. The ground floor of the childminder's home, plus a bedroom and bathroom on the first floor, is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time. She currently has one child on roll, in the early years age range, who attends on a full time basis. The childminder is also registered on the compulsory and the voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. She walks or drives to local schools and pre-schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local toddler group and local childminding group. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and receives support from the local authority.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is good. Children are cared for in a warm, safe and nurturing environment where their individual needs are recognised and met. Children's well-being is significantly supported by the health and safety measures that the childminder has adopted. The childminder offers a well organised environment to ensure that she meets the developmental needs of the children in her care. Systems are in place for the monitoring of children's progress which are shared and discussed with parents to ensure that they become equal partners in their children's learning. The childminder has a good awareness of her strengths and weakness and is committed to enhance her knowledge 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:

- develop resources available to include natural resources

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder effectively manages children's safety throughout all daily routines and activities. She has detailed records in place to show how she has assessed risks within all areas of her service, which ensures that children's safety remains one of her high priorities. The childminder has an extensive knowledge of protecting children and she is very aware of recognising any concerns and reacting appropriately. The childminder places a high emphasis on children's health and well-being which ensures that children follow a healthy life style and that they are protected from the risk of infection. All regulatory documentation is in place and well maintained. Children's information is managed well, as these are stored in individual files and stored appropriately to ensure confidentiality.

The childminder has formed positive relationships with parents. Clear systems have been developed to enable parents to provide a range of information in support of children's individual needs and stage of development. She provides individual daily dairies to inform parents of their child's routines of the day and highlight what children have enjoyed and achieved within their activities. The childminder demonstrates a clear understanding of how children learn and has developed clear systems to enable her to track and support children's progress and effectively plan for children's next steps in their learning and development. The childminder clearly identifies areas where she can further develop the good service that she provides. For example, she is currently undertaking a diploma in home based childcare to enable her to develop and review her practice and has secured further training to enable her to develop her systems for observation, assessment, planning and record keeping in support of systems to ensure the future learning of children.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The childminder provides a warm, welcoming and relaxed home environment for the children in her care. As a result, children are well settled and respond to the caring interactions of the childminder; who readily offers cuddles and reassurance. The childminder actively supports children's play and provides worthwhile learning experiences to enable them to achieve important milestones in their lives. Children have access to an array of good quality and well presented resources, which are organised appropriately to support the age and stages of development of the children, which enables them to become active learners as they readily source and play with resources that they have chosen. However, the lack of natural resources prevents children from developing their natural curiosity in allowing them to explore a wide and varied range of play equipment. The childminder adopts a flexible routine of both planned and child-initiated activities, which results in a wide variety of learning opportunities both within and outside of the home.

The welfare of the children is promoted well by the childminder. Clear daily routines ensures that children have opportunities for rest periods alongside their play experiences. Comprehensive policies and procedures are readily available for parents and clearly guide and support all aspects of the childminders service. Children are well nourished as they are provided with meals and snacks that fully support their individual dietary needs. The childminder works closely with parents to ensure that children's feeding routines are well supported. Excellent hygiene and safety regimes are in place to ensure that children remain healthy and safe. For example, the childminder provides a meticulously clean environment, she uses individual wipes and has clear nappy changing routines in place. The home is very secure and the childminder has fitted safety items where required, she has followed all fire emergency procedures thoroughly.

Children enjoy regular outdoor pursuits which provide opportunities for them to enjoy fresh air and participate in active physical play. Approach to behaviour management is shared and agreed with parents to ensure a consistent and supportive approach of both negative and positive behaviour. Children receive ongoing support and praise which encourages children to show and understand the importance of mutual respect for one another from an early age.

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?	1

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?	1
How well are children helped to be healthy?	1
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.