

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	111165
Inspection date	27/01/2009
Inspector	Judith Reed
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 1985. She lives with her husband and adult child in the Netley Abbey area of Southampton. Most areas of the property are used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding three children in the early years age group and three children over five before and after school. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The family have no pets.

The childminder is registered under the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Children have an enjoyable and relaxed experience in the secure and stable setting. The childminder ensures she is familiar with the children and their families before she starts caring for them. She finds out about their personal needs to ensure she is fully able to support them. The childminder values ongoing training, which provides a firm foundation to build on, and she continues to develop her childminding practice.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- ensure risk assessments include all risks in the garden
- continue to improve observation and assessment to support children's learning and development

The leadership and management of the early years provision

Children benefit from the ongoing development of the childminder's skills and practice. She regularly meets other childminders to share good practice ideas. The formal self-evaluation has provided a valuable experience and the childminder has taken on board improvements required. For example, the childminder extends the activities to give children further development opportunities.

Partnership with parents is good and the childminder ensures she builds a sound relationship before children start. She talks to parents about children's activities and development and finds out about their personal needs. Parents complete evaluation forms and these state that they have a good relationship with the childminder and that a wide range of indoor and outdoor activities are offered.

Children are safeguarded as the childminder has recently revised her policies to

make them easier to understand. She shows parents her policies when their children start. The childminder is fully aware of her responsibilities regarding safeguarding children. She carries out risk assessments of inside and outside the home. She remains with the children while they play outside, however, all risks have not been removed from the garden to ensure children's safety. A clear register of attendance is made noting children's times of arrival and departure. The childminder is fully aware of the conditions of her registration.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children are offered a choice of activities that will interest them, make them think about how to use materials and stretch their capabilities. They spend time outside and often use the play equipment in the local park for physical play activities, as well as space to run and jump. The childminder takes every opportunity to talk to the children while out and about. The childminder listens to the children and she values what they say. They count the animals they see, talk about the weather and use communication activities to promote learning. The childminder particularly encourages the children to recount the day to their parents and then she knows it has made an impact on them. Children help themselves to toys from a well labelled, low level, storage unit. Children sort through a container of assorted animal figures. They find their favourite animals and confidently name many of them, including the lion, some dinosaurs and horses. The childminder extends learning by requesting the children count the animals and place them in groups together. Children talk about rabbits and the childminder suggests looking in the books. Both the childminder and children search for a book with a picture of a rabbit. Children successfully find the book with the 'soft rabbit' inside. They observe the different pictures with the childminder and feel the textures of rabbits, fish, and snails.

The childminder is beginning to build record books including children's observations and photographs. Some record books include many observations and others do not. Although the childminder is aware of the stage of development of each child in her care, the observation records cannot be shared with parents or used to plan future learning at the current time.

Children develop the habits and behaviour appropriate to good learners, their own needs, and those of others. They join in, make friends and respect each other. Children respond to the expectations of the childminder and they know about the house rules. For example the childminder asks the very young children if there is any space to get out more toys. Children look around and say they do need more space. Childminder suggests they work together to tidy away some toys. Children are praised and thanked for their help.

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

On 16 December 2008 concerns were raised about supervision, the safety of the outside area of the premises and that the provider was caring for more children than her conditions of registration allowed. These concerns related to Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) welfare requirements: Suitable people and Suitable premises, environment and equipment. We visited the provider on 18 December 2008 to discuss the concerns and view practice and documentation. At the visit we found no evidence that the above requirements were not being met, however, EYFS welfare requirement: Documentation was not being met; therefore we set two actions for the provider to:

- maintain a daily register of children's attendance
- ensure records are easily accessible and available for inspection by Ofsted

A satisfactory response to the actions was received on 29 December 2008. We took no further action and the provider remained registered

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.