

Inspection report for early years provision

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Inspection date 15/12/2009
Inspector Liz Margaret Caluori

Type of setting Childminder

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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 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.

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Description of the childminding

The childminder was registered in 1994. She lives with her husband and two adult children in Willesborough, Ashford. Childminding generally takes place on the ground floor and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and both the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. She may care for a maximum of six children under eight years at any one time and currently has 12 children on roll. Of these, four are under eight years and one is in the early years age group.

The childminder is able to deliver and collect children from local schools.

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is good.

Children play and learn in a very comfortable, safe and fully inclusive environment. They are making good progress in their all round development as a result of the high quality of activities provided and the good amount of individual attention they receive. A commitment to self-evaluation and continual improvement has begun to result in improved services for children. Children also gain great benefit from the very friendly and effective relationships in place between the childminder and their parents and carers.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- review the organisation of assessment records to increase the focus on identifying next steps in each area of learning
- extend the risk assessments currently undertaken to more clearly show how risks are identified and managed to ensure that children are being given appropriate challenge and support to develop independence.

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

Robust procedures are in place to provide children with a safe and secure environment. The childminder undertakes risk assessments of her home and all outings and makes a written record of the precautions to be taken. These are comprehensive but take the form of a health and safety check list rather than indicating where risks have been effectively managed. As a result she does not always have records in place to reflect the good practices used to support children to develop their independence. For example, the childminder competently assesses the level of support individual children need to allow them to take part in activities such as cooking but does not include this in her written records. Children are

further protected by the childminder's clear understanding of her responsibilities with regards to child protection. She is confident in her ability to identify the potential signs and symptoms of abuse and has the contact details to enable her to report her concerns if necessary.

The childminder reflects on her practices and seeks the views of the children and their families to enable her to make continual improvements. As a result she very competently organises her setting and plans activities which are reflective of the children's interests. Children benefit from the very positive relationships in place between the childminder and their parents and carers. The highly effective communication ensures that care is coordinated and consistent, for example by working together to plan potty training. The childminder also has a very positive attitude towards working with any other professionals or agencies in order to meet children's needs and to share information effectively.

The childminder is very conscious of the importance of teaching children to respect diversity. She provides resources and activities which promote children's understanding of different cultures and traditions, for example celebrating Diwali and Christmas. The care and attention given to identifying and addressing children's individual needs ensures that they are given the specific attention and support they require to have equal access to activities.

The quality and standards of the early years provision and outcomes for children

Children respond extremely well to the childminder's calm, caring manner and approach her readily for support and attention. The childminder takes pride in providing a homely environment. Her success in achieving this aim is evident as the children are relaxed and confident in her home and interact easily with her family. They make very good progress in all areas of their learning and development as a result of the childminder's thorough understanding of their interests and abilities. She is competent at identifying the next steps for each child but these are not always reflected in the written records. As a result, these records are not helpful in supporting the childminder to easily share specific information with parents, carers and other professionals.

Children have access to a very impressive selection of toys and resources. These are well maintained and appropriate for their ages and stages of development. The encouragement that they receive to make choices supports children to become very independent in their learning. They concentrate well on their chosen activities, chatting happily with the childminder as they play. The childminder offers a particularly inspired range of arts and craft opportunities to the children. They also enjoy a range of interesting outings including the zoo, the steam railway and the seafront. The childminder skilfully builds on children's interests to extend their learning, for example by using a trip to the beach to look at sea life as well as providing an opportunity for children to enjoy fresh air and engage in physical games.

The smiles, attention and encouragement that children receive very effectively

promote their self-esteem. This ensures that they feel welcome, safe and secure in the childminder's care, which, in turn, gives them the confidence to express their views and to try new things without fear of failure.

Resources are set out for children to practise their mark making and writing and the childminder offers support for them to develop these skills at their own pace. Children are also developing their mathematical understanding, for example at counting, comparison, sequencing and sorting, as well as enjoying lots of opportunities to take part in problem solving activities. These, along with practical skills such as using computers, help to prepare the children for the future. Children are also given good support to learn how to keep themselves safe, for example by learning about safe road crossing and the need to be cautious around strangers.

Children enjoy very regular opportunities to take part in physical activities and are given good support to learn about the importance of healthy living. They are encouraged to develop appropriate personal hygiene routines and to understand the benefits of eating healthily. The childminder maintains a current first aid certificate and also has appropriate procedures in place to deal with sickness and administer medication.

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

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

How well does the setting meet the needs of the children in the Early Years Foundation Stage?	2
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement	2

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

How effectively is the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?	2
The effectiveness of leadership and management in embedding ambition and driving improvement	2
The effectiveness with which the setting deploys resources	2
The effectiveness with which the setting promotes equality and diversity	2
The effectiveness of safeguarding	2
The effectiveness of the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement	2
The effectiveness of partnerships	2
The effectiveness of the setting's engagement with parents and carers	2

The quality of the provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage

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Outcomes for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage

Outcomes for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage	2
The extent to which children achieve and enjoy their learning	2
The extent to which children feel safe	2
The extent to which children adopt healthy lifestyles	2
The extent to which children make a positive contribution	2
The extent to which children develop skills for the future	2

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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