

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	125375
Inspection date	20/09/2010
Inspector	Stacey Sangster

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.

Please see our website for more information about each childcare provider. We publish inspection reports, conditions of registration and details of complaints we receive where we or the provider take action to meet the requirements of registration.

Description of the childminding

The childminder was registered in 1997. She lives in Tunbridge Wells, Kent with her mother, her husband and three school-aged children. All her children are home schooled. The childminder's mother is registered as her assistant and her husband works in partnership with her as a registered childminder. They share contracts to provide care for all the children on their books. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. She may care for a maximum of four children under the age of eight at any one time, of these only three children may be in the early years age range. When working with an assistant or another childminder this number is increased to a maximum of six children under eight years; of these, not more than six may be in the early years age group, and of these, not more than two may be under one year at any one time. The childminder and her husband currently jointly mind eight children; four are under eight and of these one is in the early years age range. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is good.

The childminder supports children in the Early Years Foundation Stage effectively. The welfare and educational needs are supported so that children have an enjoyable time, making good progress towards the early learning goals in all six areas of learning. She safeguards children through identifying and reducing hazards, although there is no record of her risk assessment or its review. This breaches the welfare requirements. The childminder demonstrates a sufficiently sound capacity to maintain continuous improvement and a commitment to building on the strengths of her childcare service. She establishes good partnerships with parents which helps her ensure children's needs are met.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- produce a written record of the risk assessment that has been carried out and ensure that it is updated in line with regulations 04/10/2010

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

- take essential records and equipment on outings, specifically the document

detailing the parental consent to seek emergency medical treatment

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

Children are safeguarded by the arrangements in place to ensure that the environment in which they play is safe, the people that they have contact with are suitable and that no unvetted adults are permitted unsupervised access to children. However, there is no record of when risk assessments are carried out and by whom, or of their review. This breaches the welfare requirements.

Children have access to a wide range of age-appropriate resources, which are stored in easy to access crates around the playroom. Additional toys in a large store cupboard provide variety.

The childminder takes appropriate steps to ensure that all children are included on an equal basis in activities, games and access to play materials. Efforts are made to ensure that children have opportunities to find out about, discuss and look at artefacts relating to different places, communities and belief systems. All children are able to share details of their own family's culture, festivals and home language and diversity is celebrated.

The partnership with parents is strong, with good quality information exchanged on a regular basis. This supports both parties as they keep up-to-date with any changes to minded children's childcare needs.

Although children do not attend any other provision or receive support from other professionals, the childminder knows to form partnerships when required in order to provide continuity for the children. Most of the required documentation is in place and assists the childminder in caring for the children.

There is evidence that some self-evaluation has taken place and systems have been updated and changed to result in improvements over time. However the childminder has not fully studied the guidance documents issued relating to the Early Years Foundation Stage. This leads to a lack of clarity in relation to how to keep some documentation, such as the risk assessment record.

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

All children are supported to make good progress across the six areas of learning. The childminder helps children to develop their independence and encourages them to become inquisitive learners. This supports children to develop skills which are useful to them in the future. The environment supports children to self select from the wide range of resources on offer. Babies can access equipment from floor level and point to items that they want to look at. Children's welfare is given high

priority. Even very young babies settle quickly because of the high levels of reassurance and attention they receive from the childminder when she first starts caring for them. She discusses the children's home routines in detail and where possible matches meal times, snacks and sleep patterns to what children do at home. Children are provided with healthy foods and the family as a whole model healthy eating and use sticker charts to reward healthy choices for children who are of an age to make informed decisions. Children's health is further maintained by the hygiene routines and arrangements if children become unwell while in her care. The childminder checks with parents about feeding routines sleep patterns as well as obtaining information about individual children's likes and dislikes. This enables her to plan appropriately to meet their needs and helps children to feel safe. Children have lots of opportunities to play outside and to enjoy physical activity. Children receive gentle reminders about how to keep themselves safe, and are encouraged to think of the impact of their actions on others. Over time this assists them to understand basic risk awareness and management for themselves

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	3

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the Early Years Foundation Stage	3
The effectiveness of leadership and management in embedding ambition and driving improvement	3
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	3
The effectiveness of the setting's engagement with parents and carers	2

The quality of the provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage

The quality of the provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage	2
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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:

Not Met (with actions)

The provider confirms that the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register are:

Not Met (with actions)

The registered provider does not meet the requirements of the compulsory and or voluntary part/s of the Childcare Register.

To comply with the requirements of the compulsory part of the Childcare Register, the registered person must take the following action/s by the specified date:

- Take action as specified in the early years section of the report (Records to be kept) 04/10/2010

To comply with the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register, the registered person must take the following action/s by the specified date:

- Take action as specified in the early years section of the report (Records to be kept) 04/10/2010