

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	144833
Inspection date	25/08/2009
Inspector	Bridget Copson
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 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).

Children only attend this setting before and/or after the school day and/or during the school holidays. The judgements in this report reflect the quality of early years provision offered to children during those periods.

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 1993. She lives with her husband and three teenage children in Salisbury, Wiltshire. The accommodation available for childminding includes use of the ground floor areas of the house. Two first floor bedrooms are used for sleeping young children. There is a fully enclosed rear garden for outdoor play. The childminder takes children on outings to local parks, venues, and toddler groups. The family keeps three cats and kittens.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time, four of whom may be in the early years age group. She is currently minding six children in the early years age group and also cares for children over five years to nine years. The provision is registered by Ofsted on the Early Years Register and on the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. The childminder delivers and collects children from the local schools and on occasions works with an assistant.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall, the quality of the provision is good. Children's needs and care routines are met with consideration and consistency and their learning needs supported effectively in most areas. Children's individuality is valued and promoted and successful working partnerships are established with parents to ensure consistency in all areas. As a result, children are making good progress through the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and their welfare is secured. The childminder is proactive in her own personal development as well as improving all aspects of her provision. Effective systems monitor the quality of care provided and promote the Every Child Matters outcomes for children, but do not ensure all legal requirements are met.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- make better use of the observational assessments to identify more learning priorities for younger children and babies to encourage them to develop to their full potential in all areas of learning.

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

- keep a record of when all risk assessments are carried out, by whom and the date of review (Documentation)

25/09/2009

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder keeps well-organised policies, procedures and records which she uses to meet children's needs effectively. She conducts risk assessments for all aspects of her provision to maintain a safe and secure environment. However, these are not all dated to show when completed or reviewed. This is a breach of a requirement. Her secure knowledge of child protection issues and procedures and close supervision ensures children's welfare is safeguarded at all times. Children benefit from the childminder's efficient organisational skills. This ensures the environment is safe, hygienic and children remain active, involved and having fun.

The childminder has successful systems to evaluate and improve the quality of her provision. She has attended a wealth of training courses and workshops to improve outcomes for children. She has established effective links with the local authority and has started to develop a self-evaluation of her provision. This all ensures continuous improvements are made to the quality of children's care and learning.

Children benefit from the effective partnerships established with parents. The childminder provides parents with information regarding all aspects of her provision to support them in making an informed choice. Parents are kept well-informed and involved through home books, displays and regular newsletters regarding planned activities, themes and any events. The childminder has established some links with other professionals involved in children's care for further consistency.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children are provided with a good range of resources and learning experiences to support their stage of development. They benefit from a balance of child-led and organised activities within an enabling environment offering free-flow access to the garden. As a result, children choose according to their interests and play independently. The childminder has effective systems to plan, monitor, and promote children's progress on an individual basis. She carries out observations of children at play each month and includes photographs and examples of their work to illustrate their achievements. This information is used to plan their next steps of learning, although less emphasis is placed on encouraging younger children and babies to develop to their full potential in all areas of learning. The childminder has a good knowledge and understanding of the EYFS and knows the children well. As a result, children are making good progress in all areas of their learning.

Children are very happy and settled. They demonstrate a good sense of well-being through their laughter, conversations, focus on play and hugging the childminder and their friends. They benefit from a weekly routine which includes regular events, trips and socialising with friends. Children communicate with confidence and listen well. They express themselves clearly through speech and language, sounds, gestures and chuckling. Children count spontaneously in their play and are learning about numbers. There are, however, less opportunities for younger children to learn about problem solving in every day practical tasks. Children make

use of the local environment to explore growth and nature, such as, fishing for tadpoles and observing animals. They also get involved in the local community to promote their sense of belonging, such as, attending regular clubs, shopping for cookery ingredients in the supermarket and posting letter. They use their imaginations well in role play, with small world resources and exploring different media and materials. They use their senses well in cookery activities and exploring sensory items in a basket. Children behave very well and are developing positive attitudes. They demonstrate good manners and are learning about the needs and feelings of others through sharing, taking turns and helping. The childminder acts as a good role model offering children encouragement and praise in acknowledgement of their achievements to build their self-esteem and confidence.

Children's welfare is safeguarded effectively. The childminder maintains good standards of safety and educates children in learning about keeping safe at home and on outings. As a result, children move about freely and safely. Children's health is promoted well through the good standards of health and hygiene maintained. They are developing a positive attitude to healthy eating and an interest in food through choosing, handling and preparing foods in cookery activities. A wide range of activities in different environments promote children's physical development and fitness well on a daily basis.

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

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