

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	145644
Inspection date	10/02/2009
Inspector	Marilyn Joy
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 1991. She lives in Downton, near Salisbury with her husband. All areas of the property are used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed rear garden available for outside play. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. She attends the local parent and toddler group and takes children to the local park and library. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children under eight years at any one time. She is currently minding two pre-school children on a part-time basis, two children aged between five years and eight years and six children aged over eight years. The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall, the quality of the provision is inadequate. The childminder offers a caring, home environment where children can relax and develop positive relationships with others. Information is exchanged with parents to enable children's individual welfare needs to be met. However, the childminder does not have sufficient understanding of the learning and development requirements which means she is unable to adequately support their learning. The childminder has made some progress since the last inspection by updating her first aid training and improving documentation, although no action is being taken to secure further improvement.

Overall, the early years provision requires significant improvement. The registered person is given a Notice to Improve that sets out actions to be carried out.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

To comply with the requirements of the EYFS the registered person must take the following action by the specified date:

- maintain a record of risk assessments conducted for all areas of the premises and outings (Documentation) 26/02/2009
- undertake sensitive observational assessment in order to plan and provide experiences which are appropriate for each child's stage of development as they progress towards the early learning goals (Learning and development) 26/02/2009
- improve knowledge and understanding of the educational programmes detailed in the Early Years Foundation Stage in order to support children's progress towards the early learning goals (Learning and development). 26/02/2009

To improve the early years provision the registered person should:

- develop knowledge and understanding of safeguarding children procedures

- devise a procedure, in line with current regulations, for dealing with concerns and complaints from parents.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

Children's welfare, in particular their health and emotional well-being, is given priority by the childminder. Children are comfortable and at ease in the childminder's care. They benefit from the positive relationships developed with parents which contributes towards them feeling confident and secure. Initial and ongoing discussions ensure the childminder is fully aware of children's individual health, dietary and welfare needs, as well as parental preferences. Arrangements are beginning to be established with other settings that children attend so that they can work together to develop consistency practice. Parents value the friendly and reliable care provided.

The childminder has reviewed her practice and completed the self-evaluation form. She has identified that she is not meeting the learning and development requirements, but has not made any attempt to address. The childminder has some information about the Early Years Foundation Stage, but does not have a copy of the full pack and has not attended any relevant training to support her in fulfilling the requirements. The childminder's lack of knowledge has a detrimental impact on her ability to support children's progression in all areas. Some improvements have been made since the last inspection. Health records are now maintained accurately and parents receive clear written information about the childminder's emergency procedures. However, the childminder is still unclear about the requirements for responding to complaints.

Children are helped to stay safe. They are given clear boundaries and guidance so they know what is expected and how to behave, such as when they are walking to and from pre-school. The childminder is aware of potential hazards, for example, appropriate safety equipment is in place throughout the home and safe routes are followed when walking. However, the childminder does not maintain a written record of risk assessments for the premises or outings, which is a breach of the regulations. The childminder is vigilant in her supervision of children which keeps them safe. The childminder has a basic knowledge of child protection issues, although is not fully aware of the procedures to be followed should she have concerns about a child in her care.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children are happy and settled in the childminder's care. They actively seek her involvement in their play and seek help with setting up the car track and making a puzzle. Children enjoy the close relationships developed with the childminder and the consistent care she provides. Children's social skills are supported well with an emphasis on the development of good manners. Children are encouraged to be considerate of each other. They enjoy playing games with the childminder and learn to take turns. However, children are not always encouraged to demonstrate

what they know or helped to extend their learning. When playing a board game the childminder names the colours as they roll the dice and counts the spaces as they move their counters. Children are often praised which boosts their confidence and self-worth.

The childminder gets to know children well and is able to support their welfare needs. She liaises with parents where children require individual care and offers sensitive support so they are able to succeed in games that they play, for example, when throwing and catching balls. However, there are no systems for supporting children's learning and development or enabling them to make progress in all areas. This is a breach of the regulations.

Children are offered an appropriate range of activities. They visit toddler groups, participate in community events, go for walks and sometimes travel on the bus. Fresh air and exercise forms part of the daily routine as they walk to and from the pre-school or into the village. Children learn about road safety and the importance of behaving well. They have access to a variety of resources in the home and have ample space in the garden to develop their physical skills.

Children's health is promoted well through the childminder's own good practice and the consistent support they receive in order to develop good hygiene habits. Information regarding children's individual health and dietary needs is gathered from parents and reflected in the care provided. Mealtimes are sociable occasions where children enjoy having lunch and snacks together. The childminder has clear procedures for responding to emergencies. She has practice fire drills with the children and has updated her first aid training so that she has up-to-date knowledge should an accident occur.

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?	4
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	3
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	4

Leadership and management

How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?	4
How effective is the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement?	4
How well does the setting work in partnership with parents and others?	3
How well are children safeguarded?	3

Quality and standards

How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?	4
How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?	3
How well are children helped to stay safe?	3
How well are children helped to be healthy?	2
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	4
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	3
How well are children helped develop skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being?	4

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:

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:

- maintain and implement a written statement of procedures to be followed in order to protect and safeguard children from abuse or neglect (Arrangements for Safeguarding Children - also applies to the voluntary part of the Childcare Register) 26/02/2009
- devise a written statement of procedures to be followed in relation to complaints which relate to the requirements of the Childcare Register and which a parent makes in writing or by email (Procedures for dealing with complaints - also applies to the voluntary part of the Childcare Register). 26/02/2009

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 for the compulsory part of the Childcare Register. 26/02/2009

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

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted.

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.