

Inspection report for early years provision

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Inspection date	13/05/2010
Inspector	Mandy Gannon
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 has been registered since 1999. She lives with her husband and two children aged seven and 10 years old in a semi-detached house in a quiet residential area of Charvil. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding. Sleeping and toilet facilities are provided on the first floor. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. Her registration permits her to care for five children under eight years and of these three may be in the early years age group at any one time. She currently cares for four children all in the early years age group who attend on a variety of full time and part time basis. The childminder walks to local pre-school, shops and park which are all within walking distance and drives to schools and pre-schools which are further away. The family have no pets.

The childminder takes the children on regular outings and attends the local carer and toddler group.

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is good.

Children benefit from a well organised, successful setting where they experience a wide range of toys and resources. Children's learning, development and welfare needs are met through the competent skills of the childminder. Effective working relationships with parents and carers enable the childminder to have an accurate understanding of the individual needs of children in her care. The childminder continues to strive for further improvement through good quality regular evaluation procedures and accessing regular training.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- further develop how the setting promotes and values diversity and differences

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

Children's welfare is safeguarded as the childminder understands her responsibility with regard to child protection, concise policies and procedures are in place and she has attended training. The childminder acts as a positive role model who is calm and caring. She supports children effectively in their play having an accurate understanding of playing with the children at their level. Hazards throughout the property have been minimised and risk assessment records for her home and

outings are effectively maintained. Children's well-being and welfare is promoted through the management and maintenance of well organised records.

The childminder is committed to the improvement of her provision, she regularly evaluates her practice and involves parental input through questionnaires. The childminder extends her understanding and expertise by regularly attending training. She has completed Ofsted's online self evaluation record, where she has clearly identified her strengths and areas for further improvement. Children move freely around the setting where they can make choices and independently select from a suitable wide range of toys and resources. All children are included in play and the childminder skilfully differentiate activities to ensure that an activity is appropriate for their age and stage of development. Although, the recognition of other cultures is developing.

The childminder has a thorough knowledge and understanding of the children in her care and has developed and formed some exceptional partnerships with parents and carers who work very closely to meet children's individual needs. Children's developmental records are shared with the neighbouring pre school and the child's key worker to ensure a collaborative approach is promoted. Successful engagement with parents through daily diaries, verbally, by the telephone and through regular sharing of their folders of observations and assessments enable all to contribute to meet the individual needs of the child. Parents are all extremely positive through letters and questionnaires of the dedication and excellent care their children receive.

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

Children are settled, happy and relaxed in an environment where they form strong relationships with the childminder and their peers. Children are valued, they develop confidence and self-esteem as the childminder praises and encourages positive behaviour. Children understand what is expected of them with consistent boundaries and familiar routines. They listen to the childminder carefully when she talks to them and follow instructions, self-care and independence is developed as they put on their shoes when going outside and take them off when coming indoors. Children benefit from a commitment of the childminder to promote being healthy. They plant their own fruit and vegetables and discuss how to stay healthy and identify different fruit on a poster on the door. Individual towels minimise cross infection and posters remind children to wash their hands. Children freely access water to drink and are reminded to drink frequently to remain hydrated. Children enthusiastically participate in physical activity as they play in the garden and go for walks in the local parks. The childminder promotes healthy eating through home cooked food and has completed a food hygiene course and had an inspection from the local food standards agency. Children have an excellent understanding of safety through the discussion with the childminder who skilfully uses opportunities as they arise to discuss safety issues. Children have an accurate understanding of the procedures to follow in a fire drill.

The childminder maintains regular observations and assessments which she

effectively uses to identify the next steps in children's development. Activities are planned to follow the children's interests and she successfully talks to the children to help develop their language skills and vocabulary. Children are absorbed in their play as using chalks they identify colours, draw shapes and farm animals.

Imaginary play emerges skilfully supported by the childminder as the children become the farmers driving the tractor and the animals in the trailer. Children benefit as they have many opportunities to develop their understanding of the wider world as they observe worms in the wormery, discuss and are reminded of the life cycles of butterflies they observed last year and plant, tend and harvest their own fruit and vegetables. Children have regular opportunities to develop their social skills and an awareness of the wider community in which they live as they socialise with others.

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	1
The effectiveness with which the setting promotes equality and diversity	2
The effectiveness of safeguarding	1
The effectiveness of the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement	2
The effectiveness of partnerships	1
The effectiveness of the setting's engagement with parents and carers	1

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	1
The extent to which children adopt healthy lifestyles	1
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
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The provider confirms that the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register are:	Met
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