

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	201672
Inspection date	09/02/2009
Inspector	Paula Hunt
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 registered in 2000. She lives with her husband and two children aged 18 and 11 years in the Galley Common area of Nuneaton in Warwickshire. Access to the property is at street level with toilet facilities on the first floor of the house. The whole ground floor of the 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 on both the voluntary and compulsory parts of the Childcare Register. There are currently four children on roll, two of whom are within the early years age range.

The childminder uses a vehicle to transport children to and from local schools and is a member of the National Childminding Association.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is satisfactory. Children are cared for in a mostly well organised and welcoming family environment where they participate in an appropriate range of activities. The childminder has good relationships with parents/carers and as a result, children are happy, settled, safe and secure during their time at the setting. She offers an inclusive service where all children are valued and their individual needs met. The childminder provides a homely and inclusive environment for all children and takes some appropriate steps to demonstrate her commitment to continuous improvement through the identification of her training needs.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- develop the existing risk assessments to identify particular aspects of the environment both indoors and on specific trips to help promote safety
- develop further the current systems for assessment to ensure that children's next steps for learning are consistently identified to inform planning.
- ensure inappropriate behaviour is managed in ways that effectively promote children's self-esteem and confidence
- improve knowledge of the learning and development aspects of the Early Years Foundation stage (EYFS) and develop an effective system of self-evaluation to ensure weaknesses and areas for improvement are identified.

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

- obtain information from parents who has legal contact with the child and who has parental responsibility for the child. (Safeguarding and welfare)

12/03/2009

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder keeps most of the records required for the safe and efficient running of the service and documentation is clear and well-organised. This helps safeguard and promote children's welfare. The childminder has complete relevant first aid training, this enables her to deal appropriately with minor emergency situations. All health related documentation is in place and well-maintained. A basic written risk assessment is in place which details how some potential risks and hazards are minimised within all areas of the home to keep children safe. However, it does not include the outside environment or specific outings. The childminder recently attended safeguarding training and children are safeguarded because the childminder clearly understands his responsibility with regard to child protection and knows how to make a referral if she has a concern about a child.

The childminder is committed to developing her practice through ongoing training and development. This not only increases and updates her knowledge and understanding of childcare and development but helps to improve the quality of the service she provides for children. She is yet to complete a self-evaluation document to assist her to focus on strengths within her practice and consider areas needing further improvement. She intends to review and evaluate her practice on a regular basis to ensure continued improvement. Recommendations from the previous inspection have been adequately addressed.

The partnerships with parents are generally effective in ensuring that children's welfare needs can be fully met. For example, parents receive information about the provision through a portfolio which contains all policies and procedures used to underpin the running of the provision. The childminder encourages new parents to share information about their child during the settling in period, so that she is fully informed about children's individual routines, likes and dislikes. There are daily opportunities for sharing information verbally to meet children's individual needs. The childminder has made links with other settings that children attend, to discuss and plan their welfare and development.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children make satisfactory progress in their learning and are involved in a broad range of activities and experiences which help them learn through play and routine activities. They access an adequate range of resources which are well organised to allow them to select for themselves, according to their age and stage of development. However, the childminder is not confident with the learning and development aspects of the EYFS. This limits planning for the next steps of achievement and plans are not yet linked to the six areas of learning to ensure they are meaningful for the individual child to effectively progress their development. Children develop good communication, language and literacy skills as they continuously chat with the childminder. For example, they enjoy setting up the farm, they talk enthusiastically about the animals and about what they are doing, such as milking a cow. Direction from the childminder helps them to

understand concepts such as in-front and behind, with children using their problem-solving skills to sort, group and re-position the animals. When completing jigsaw puzzles they talk about the pictures they make and how "the blue engine is their favourite". They are encouraged by the childminder who warmly praises them for their successes. Children are able to express themselves creatively and use their imaginations as they participate in a variety of art and craft activities.

Children have regular opportunities to be active outside such as when they play on the childminder's garden bikes, balls or use the slide. They also enjoy regular outings to the local park and walks around the area. Children receive a healthy and varied diet at the childminders home with fresh fruit and drinks on offer throughout the day. Safety measures in place help the children develop an awareness of their own safety as they are asked to tidy away toys carefully and through practising regular fire drills. Routines are flexible in order to meet children's individual needs and children are settled in gradually. Children are happy and have formed secure relationships with the childminder who is kind and caring. They behave well and are respectful of each other as the childminder sensitively talks to them, helping them to understand the consequences of their actions and how it can affect other people. However, the use of some inappropriate behaviour management methods does little to effectively promote children's self-esteem and confidence. The childminder promotes a positive awareness of diversity through encouraging discussion and through the provision of some resources which help children develop positive attitudes to 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

Overall effectiveness

How effective is the provision in meeting the needs of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage?	3
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	3
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	3

Leadership and management

How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?	3
How effective is the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement?	3
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?	3
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?	3
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	3
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?	3

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:

Met

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

Met

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.