

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	225848
Inspection date	12/08/2009
Inspector	Patricia Bowler
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).

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 1994. She lives with her husband, one adult child and one child aged 12 years in Broughton Astley, Leicestershire. The whole of the childminder's home is used for minding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The home is accessible to all children with normal domestic access and facilities on the ground floor.

The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and both the voluntary and compulsory parts of the Childcare Register, to care for a maximum of six children at any one time, three of whom, may be in the early years age group.

The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children and attends various community groups and activities. The family has two fish tanks with ornamental fish and a pet rabbit.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is outstanding. Exceptional partnerships with parents ensure children's individual needs are diligently maintained in all aspects of their care and learning. The childminder liaises extremely well with other settings attended by the children to consistently monitor and enhance their overall learning and development. Children remain exceedingly safe and secure through meticulously maintained risk assessments, a secure knowledge and understanding of Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures and exemplary policies and procedures which work extremely effectively in practice. Cohesive and pro-active use of self-evaluation effectively identifies areas for improvement which are systematically endorsed. Children and parents are actively involved through written questionnaires so their thoughts and ideas are acknowledged and incorporated into improvement to maintain the high level of care. Children learn about their local area and the wider world through extremely well-organised outings and activities. Positive images actively reflect diversity and difference and precise attention to children's individual needs effectively promotes inclusive practice. Innovative play activities and extensively detailed observation and assessment records identify children's progress and learning priorities for their future development.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

To further improve the high quality early years provision the registered person should consider:

- developing further the records of children's development to include parents so they can support their child's learning priorities.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

Rigorous risk assessment, vigilant hygiene routines and extremely effective organisation promote and maintain children's safety, health and welfare. Comprehensive policies and procedures are vigilantly maintained and shared with parents. Highly detailed information records clearly identify children's individual needs. The childminder has attended training in child protection and a written statement informs parents of her detailed procedures and responsibility to maintain children's safety and welfare. Household members are appropriately vetted and children are not left alone with anyone who has not been cleared. Continuous improvement is maintained through meticulous self-evaluation and effective monitoring of working practice recorded in a detailed continuous action plan for development.

An exciting balance of planned activities and play opportunities inspire children's learning and arrangements for self-selection actively promotes independence allowing them to steer their own play. Exemplary observation and assessment records clearly monitor children's individual progress. However, not all parents are involved sufficiently to support their child's next steps in learning.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The child-orientated home with an abundance of exciting resources motivate children to develop high levels of independence and self-esteem as they select and steer their own play. They play an active role in planning by completing their own questionnaires in order that their individual preferences are acknowledged and discussed. Children are highly valued with authorised photographs and examples of creative work displayed within the home. Further photographic evidence of events and activities are included in excellent Learning Journeys to which most parents make active contributions to support their children at home. Systematic progress reports, linked to the areas of learning celebrate children's achievements and clearly identify priorities for their next steps in learning. The childminder focuses on children learning through play and everyday experiences, looking for letters, numbers and colours on outings and during play activities. Children enjoy decorating tee shirts with fabric crayons and discuss in depth the processes to be followed to ensure their designs are not lost during washing programmes. Older children eagerly anticipate careful involvement in ironing processes when a younger child sleeps later in the day. All activities are sensitively adapted to meet differing stages of development.

A wide range of books are accessible in quiet times and relaxation periods and monitored access to television programmes, DVDs and the computer allow children, especially after school, to relax and enjoy themselves. Healthy meals and snacks are provided in line with parental wishes. Planned menus include fresh fruit, carbohydrates and protein and discussions with children enhance their knowledge and understanding of the positive effects these have on their growth and development.

Children develop independence in their personal care and hygiene through consistent daily routines. They remove shoes on entry and know to wash their hands and why this is important following toileting and before meals. Their pro-active involvement in developing house rules promotes awareness of respect and regard for themselves and others. Children behave very well because the childminder focuses on positive outcomes to make her expectations clear. They are praised for their actions to let them know their behaviour has been acknowledged.

Children enjoy fresh air and exercise in outdoor play where a range of activities including sand and water in the garden are permanently available. They learn about keeping safe because the childminder explains possible hazards to them and effective use is made on outings to increase their knowledge and use of road safety. Children develop social skills as they attend various community groups building relationships with peers and known adults.

The childminder has an excellent understanding of the areas of learning promoted through a balance of adult-led and child-initiated activities to effectively support children's overall enjoyment, progress and development. They are actively supported through the childminder's continuous reflective monitoring of her working practice to maintain the outstanding level of care provided. They are highly motivated in their learning and development and their individual needs are effectively met.

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?	1
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	1
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	1

Leadership and management

How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?	1
How effective is the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement?	1
How well does the setting work in partnership with parents and others?	1
How well are children safeguarded?	1

Quality and standards

How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?	1
How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?	1
How well are children helped to stay safe?	1
How well are children helped to be healthy?	1
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	1
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	1
How well are children helped develop skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being?	1

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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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