

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	227586
Inspection date	06/11/2008
Inspector	Esther Gray
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 1989. She lives with her husband, her mother and two adult children in a residential area in Quinton, Birmingham. There are shops and schools within easy walking distance. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding, including access to toilet and hand washing facilities. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. Children are also taken on local outings to the park and shopping trips, including attendances at the local carer and toddler groups.

The childminder is registered to care for six children at any one time. There are currently three children attending who are within the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), some of whom attend on a part-time basis. Of these, no children receive funding for early years provision. The childminder also offers care to children aged over five years to eight years. This provision is registered by Ofsted on the compulsory part of the Childcare Register.

The childminder has procedures to support children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. She is able to take and collect children from local schools and pre-schools.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

All children make slow but steady progress in their learning and development. Planning for improvement is developing and the childminder has organised training to address some areas of weakness she has identified in her childcare practice. However, the process of formal self-evaluation has not begun and continuous improvement is slow to progress, leaving for example, required risk assessment records undeveloped and some areas for improvement in updating knowledge in childcare and education unidentified. Nevertheless, children are welcomed into an inclusive, warm, family environment. The childminder works closely with parents, carers and others to meet every child's needs.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- improve understanding of safeguarding children issues and be able to implement the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedure appropriately
- improve ongoing observational assessment to inform planning for each child's continuing development through play-based activities.

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

- develop a record of risk assessment clearly stating when it was carried out, date of review and any action taken following a review or incident (also applies to the compulsory part of the Childcare Register).

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The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder has not developed a record of the risk assessment. As a result, there is a potential for the safety of children to be compromised. However, she makes good use of her assistant and resources within the home to allow children to move around the setting freely. This provides good supervision of children in all areas and supports children's developing confidence and independence. Overall the maintenance of records, policies and procedures required for safe and efficient management of the Early Years Foundation Stage, ensure that the needs of all children are met. The childminder works well with parents and carers in developing consistent approaches, for example, in managing behaviour and in meeting any additional, dietary, cultural or medical needs a child may have. The childminder has undertaken some training over the many years she has been childminding, for example, in the Common Assessment Framework, in information sharing. She also undertook training to improve educational and care outcomes for children aged from birth to three years of age. However, she has not implemented practice advice gained from this training. She has clearly identified some targets for further improvement by identifying two priority training courses to improve her childcare practice further. This includes obtaining a level three qualification in childcare and education and training in the Early Years Foundation Stage. At the last inspection the childminder agreed to develop resources that support children's understanding of disability. Since the last inspection she involved the children in producing a scrapbook of information and images which promote equality and inclusion. This has had a beneficial impact on all children as this instigates discussion and learning about equality and accessibility. This demonstrates that although future plans are limited they are likely to bring about some improvement to the provision.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The childminder ensures children are provided with a suitably balanced programme of activities, which promote development and encourage a satisfactory disposition towards learning. They enjoy many opportunities to develop their creative skills in drawing, painting and cookery, using a wide variety of materials to make and create imaginatively. They run in and out dressed in different dressing-up resources, examining the layers of material in a fancy costume or following an imaginative plot, created in response to dressing up as a favourite character in a story or film. She teaches children to behave well, personally setting a good example, encouraging good behaviour with praise and reward, making sure that no child is made an example of or is humiliated in any way. This promotes good self-esteem and confidence.

Children behave in ways that are healthy and safe for themselves and others and develop an understanding of dangers and how to stay safe. For example, children help the childminder to sweep up the leaves in autumn, which teaches them about the risks of slipping on wet leaves whilst being outside in the fresh air. They understand and adopt healthy habits such as good hygiene practices, learning about

maintaining good hygiene before eating and after toileting. They make healthy choices about what they eat and drink, having ready access to fresh drinks throughout their stay. Children recount what their meal choice was and how they enjoyed it with relish. This demonstrates first-rate speaking and listening skills gained from good engagement by the childminder as she joins in their play. They explain that they make cakes, which provides many opportunities for weighing, counting and learning about the science of cookery and yet further opportunities to promote their appreciation of diversity in the wider community. Although observational assessment does not sufficiently inform planning for each child's continuing development, they develop satisfactory habits as active, inquisitive and independent learners. The childminder provides stimulating and interesting activities and resources in a safe, warm comfortable environment, which is a secure basis on which to build progress and learning in children's development.

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?	2
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?	2
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?	2
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	3
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?	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:

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:

- take action as specified in the early years section of the report (Documentation).

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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 that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action.

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.