

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	228446
Inspection date	15/10/2008
Inspector	Angela Dyer
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 has been registered since 1995 and lives with her husband and four children aged 17, 15, eight and three years in Yardley, Birmingham. The childminder's husband is also a registered childminder and works in partnership with his wife. All areas of the property, with the exclusion of the bedrooms, are used for childminding purposes. The bathroom is on the first floor and the premises are accessible via the front entrance which has a low step. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outdoor play.

A maximum of five children may attend the setting at any one time, although when working with her co-minder, this number may increase to eight children. There are currently three children attending who are within the early years age range. The childminder also cares for children between the ages of five and twelve years. This provision is registered by Ofsted on the compulsory and voluntary childcare register.

The childminder has an NVQ Level 3 qualification in Child Care and Education. She is a member of a recognised childminding association and runs a local childminder's group which she attends on a regular basis.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The childminder takes time to develop warm, caring relationships with the children in her care. All children are extremely happy and benefit from high levels of attention and interaction from the childminder. A wide range of activities, most of which are informed by observations of children's progress, are thoughtfully prepared to encourage children to develop new skills, knowledge and have fun. The childminder provides a fully inclusive environment and works collaboratively with parents and other professionals to fully meet children's individual needs. Most required documentation, including written policies and procedures, are in place and maintained to a suitable level. The childminder has a clear vision for future practice and involves both her co-minder and parents in monitoring and evaluating the service to identify strengths and weaknesses.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- review and develop the procedure for carrying out risk assessments
- develop a systematic and routine approach to observing children and use assessment to plan the next steps in children's developmental progress.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder's home is maintained to a high standard and is well organised to maximise play opportunities for children. The conservatory has been transformed into a child-friendly and stimulating learning environment where children have access to a wealth of good quality resources. Children are protected because the childminder has a good knowledge of safeguarding procedures and is vigilant in promoting children's safety. The childminder carries out daily risk assessments of the equipment and home environment and understands the importance of assessing potential risks before going on any outings, however, these are not always formally recorded as required by the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS).

The childminder and her co-minder work together successfully and cohesively, sharing their responsibilities in a seamless manner, whilst offering each other support. Both childminders are passionate about their roles and share a common goal to provide high quality care for children. Children benefit from the childminder's knowledge of childcare, her experience and ongoing commitment to developing and enhancing her practice through attending further training. The childminder shows a strong commitment to meeting the requirements of the EYFS and is proactive in reflecting on and evaluating her service to assess and improve the outcomes for children. Since the last inspection the childminder has addressed the recommendation issued and as a result documentation has improved.

Good relationships have been formed between the childminder and parents and a number of letters and cards illustrate that parent's value the high levels of care their children receive. A comprehensive folder is available to parents in order for them to fully understand the childminder's policies and practices and a daily diary system is used as an effective method to share information regarding their child's day. Parents contribute to completing their child's progress records which helps the childminder to value and build on children's existing skills. Close working relationships have also been developed with the local children's centre and development workers and these are used effectively as part of the childminders commitment to providing high quality care and early education.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children have good opportunities to learn and develop through a balanced range of adult and child-led activities that reflect the children's interests and capabilities. The childminder recognises the uniqueness of each child and is skilled at following each of their interests. Children enjoy participating in a broad range of fun and practical activities, both indoors and outdoors. For example, children enjoy making their own play dough which they mould and shape using the available utensils. Older children also enjoy learning new skills including sewing and cooking. Role play is another popular activity, both indoors and outdoors, where the outdoor playhouse is often transformed into different themes, including hairdressers and restaurants. Children have individual files which are used by the childminder to record observations and assessments. This process is currently under review in order to ensure that the observations and assessments are used to inform future plans.

The homely environment enhances children's health and well-being. Children are developing good eating habits and are encouraged to make healthy choices on their

visits to the local shops to choose their own foods. Fresh fruit and vegetables are regularly provided and the menus detail a range of healthy and nutritious snacks and meals. Daily opportunities are in place for children to enjoy a range of physical activities and experiences, indoors and outdoors. For example, visiting the local park where they can feed the ducks or use the large play equipment. In addition children play in the garden, where they are able to play games including tennis and football or use various pieces of equipment including the climbing frame, mini trampoline and ride-on toys.

Children are purposefully involved in their play and consequently are very well-behaved. Lots of praise and encouragement is offered to develop children's self-esteem and encourage acceptable behaviour. Children understand the simple and positive house rules and are learning right from wrong through the calm and consistent approach modelled by the childminder. Children are beginning to develop an understanding of the wider world and are encouraged to celebrate a range of festivals and access resources reflecting positive images of the diversity of society. Each child is acknowledged as an individual and the childminder demonstrates a positive approach to working closely with parents and other professionals to ensure that specific needs are met and all children are included.

Annex A: record of inspection judgements

The key inspection judgements and what they mean

Outstanding: this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality

Good: this aspect of the provision is strong

Satisfactory: this aspect of the provision is sound

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

Leadership and management

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

Quality and standards

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

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

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the last inspection.

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.