

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	306248
Inspection date	18/12/2008
Inspector	Elaine Murray
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 1992. She lives with her husband in Oxton, Wirral. The whole of the ground floor and first floor of the childminder's house are used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outdoor play. The childminder works with an assistant.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children under eight years at any one time when working alone, and seven children under eight years when working with an assistant. The provision is registered on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. There are currently nine children attending who are within the Early Years Foundation Stage. The childminder also cares for children between six and 11 years before and after school. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local parent and toddler group.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The childminder pays excellent attention to the promotion of children's health, safety and well-being. Excellent links with parents and close links with other providers ensure that individual needs are met to a high standard. The childminder provides a stimulating environment in which children's learning is effectively developed. She ensures that all children are fully included and valued as individuals. Highly effective systems of evaluation and clear commitment to providing a quality service ensure that children benefit from an outstanding and continuously improving provision.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- further develop systems of observation and assessment to ensure an accurate picture of children's progress in the six areas of learning

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder skilfully organises a flexible daily routine which enables she and her assistant to meet children's needs. As a result, children are happy and settled in her care. The childminder makes highly effective use of space and an excellent range of resources to provide a bright and welcoming environment in which children can feel secure and learning can be developed. The childminder has a strong commitment to ensuring that all children are valued as individuals and positively included. She makes highly effective use of a broad range of resources and sensitive discussion to develop children's understanding of diversity. The childminder's clear written policies and procedures work very effectively to ensure

that children's health, well-being and safety are promoted to a high standard. Children benefit from the childminder's qualification in childcare and her exemplary commitment to further improvement. Since the last inspection the childminder has taken part in a wealth of training courses to further develop her knowledge and understanding of aspects of care, such as children's health and the development of learning. She is currently furthering her knowledge of child development by studying for a degree in childcare and education. These measures ensure that children benefit from an outstanding level of care. The childminder has an excellent awareness of the strengths and weaknesses of her provision. Thorough systems of self-evaluation ensure that areas for development are identified and acted on. The childminder has made significant improvements to her provision since the last inspection. For example, she has made changes to ensure that children have continuous access to the outdoor area and creative play table. She has achieved a level 3 Quality First National Childminding Association accredited award in 2008.

Partnerships with parents are excellent. There is a positive sharing of information and the childminder consistently builds on parents knowledge of their child's interests and capabilities to ensure that their needs are very effectively met. The childminder effectively shares information with other settings providing the Early Years Foundation Stage that children attend, for example, pre-school and reception class. The childminder has an excellent awareness of safety issues and has carried out a thorough risk assessment of the premises, which is regularly reviewed.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children benefit from the stimulating environment provided. The main playroom is bright, children's work is attractively displayed and children can access an excellent range of resources. The childminder plans a broad range of activities which are based on children's needs and interests. For example, she provides activities and a range of resources relating to dinosaurs as a result of children's interest. Children are motivated and enthusiastic as they play with books and jigsaws related to this topic. The childminder skilfully develops learning through effective questioning. She extends children's vocabulary by suggesting and encouraging them to think of descriptive words for how a toy feels. The childminder has very positive, warm relationships with children. Children's confidence and self-esteem are promoted effectively and they behave extremely well. They respond well to the childminder's enthusiastic approach and genuine praise and encouragement. Children develop a positive attitude to diversity and an awareness of right and wrong through the childminder's skilful approach. For example, when encountering negative comments between children, she plans a discussion activity using role play with a doll, to encourage children to develop a positive awareness that we are all different, and to think how negative comments about differences in appearance may make children feel. The childminder has a very good knowledge of the Early Years Foundation Stage learning and development requirements. She knows the children in her care extremely well, and makes regular observations of children's learning. Her observations are effectively used to plan children's next steps. As a result, children make very good progress in their learning. The childminder has

recently developed a system to ensure that she has an ongoing, clear picture of children's progress in the six areas of learning, which she is planning to implement for all the children in her care.

The childminder pays excellent attention to the promotion of children's health. Children benefit from planned activities to develop their awareness of the importance of healthy eating. For example, they take part in 'healthy eating week', when children display a chart of which healthy foods they like, taste different healthy foods, walk to school and sing songs about being healthy. The childminder provides children with a very healthy diet, including potatoes and fruit which children have grown in the garden. Children have continuous access to outdoor area to enjoy fresh air and develop skills using the broad range of equipment there. Highly effective measures are in place to protect children's health, such as clear policies on sickness and a comprehensive file of guidance about infectious illnesses, hygiene practice and infection control is displayed on the playroom door for parents to see. The childminder pays high level of attention to developing children's awareness of safety. For example, she talk to children about personal safety and 'stranger danger'. She gives careful explanations about why children should wear helmets when riding bicycles, and why they should not run indoors.

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?	2
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?	2
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

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

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.