

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	510452
Inspection date	16/01/2009
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 was registered in 1985. She lives with her husband and three adult children in Coventry. Access to the childminder's home is via a small step and the whole ground floor of the house is used for childminding. 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 seven children on roll, three of whom are within the early years age group.

The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. She attends the local parent/toddler group and has a pet cat. She is a member of the National Childminding Association and regularly meets with other childminders in the area.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Children are cared for in a warm and welcoming environment where resources are readily accessible to them. They are happy, secure and make good progress in their learning and development. The childminder has a good knowledge of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and promotes inclusion as she plans for children's individual needs and interests. She has developed a good partnership with parents and ensures that she provides a daily exchange of information about their children. The childminder shows a good commitment to developing her knowledge and improving her practice by attending a wide range of relevant courses.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- ensure the record of children's daily attendance is accurate and up to date
- involve parents in extending their children's learning by sharing information about their child's progress and achievements, and about how the activities are promoting further progress towards the early learning goals
- extend the risk assessments to include each outing.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder is beginning to make good use of the self-evaluation form which has clearly supported her in identifying the strengths and weaknesses in her service. She uses this information to make any necessary improvements to her service, such as providing more opportunities for numeracy activities. The childminder has completed a risk assessment for the premises and has taken good steps to ensure a safe environment for children. For example, the home and outdoor play area are kept secure, a stair gate and fireguard are available, plus

smoke alarms and a fire blanket. Cleaning materials are inaccessible to children. However, the risk assessments do not include outings to community groups and the local area.

Most records and documentation required for the safe and efficient management of the provision are available, well kept and up to date. However, the daily attendance does not contain children's times of arrival and departure. Some good practice records, such as policy and procedure documents, are also available and support the good organisation of the provision. The childminder has a strong working relationship with parents. They are happy and confident with the care their children receive and provide positive references. There are appropriate systems in place to share information relating to children's individual needs, such as dietary requirements, which promotes children's good health.

Children's welfare has been improved and they are well safeguarded as the childminder has effectively addressed the recommendation from her previous inspection. The childminder has attended training in this area and demonstrates a good understanding of the main areas and possible signs of child abuse. She is aware of her responsibilities in relation to passing on any concerns and has relevant documentation and guidance materials readily available.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children are confident and content in the childminder's care. They are active learners as they initiate their own games and explore the play resources with enthusiasm and curiosity. The children play with an alphabet floor puzzle, they are confident and talk with the childminder about the pictures. The childminder encourages vocabulary and phonetically sounds the letters of the different objects as they piece the puzzle together. The childminder has a good knowledge of the six areas of learning and provides a wide variety of play experiences for them to enjoy; for example, they are involved in physical activity both indoors and outdoors, they participate in creative activities, complete floor puzzles, read books and are involved in good role play opportunities that are supported by good resources. She understands that, with her support, one simple activity such as making a bird feeder, can encompass every area and consequently give the children a fun and stimulating experience. Children are well supported by the childminder who uses conversation and open questions to extend their interest and plans effectively around the children's needs and preferences. She has a clear understanding of how children learn and is beginning to use observations to monitor children's progress and also records their achievements in individual books. However, these are not currently shared with all parents to fully promote and extend children's learning.

Children enjoy weekly visits to local groups and outings in the local area which help them to learn about their own environment and the wider world. The childminder is positive about inclusion and believes that every child's unique needs and interests are important. With the broad age range of children cared for the childminder works to ensure that activities are provided for children of different ages to meet individual learning needs. Children's health is well promoted as they

are encouraged in daily routines such as hand washing and enjoy healthy snacks and outdoor play activities. Children are developing their own self-esteem as they carry out independent tasks, for example, when tidying away toys, washing hands and playing cooperatively. They receive lots of encouragement from the childminder who responds to individual children appropriately and supports them all according to their own capabilities. The childminder uses positive strategies for managing behaviour. This helps the children to understand the boundaries set and to behave well.

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?	2
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	2
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	2

Leadership and management

How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?	2
How effective is the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement?	2
How well does the setting work in partnership with parents and others?	3
How well are children safeguarded?	2

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?	2
How well are children helped to stay safe?	2
How well are children helped to be healthy?	2
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	2
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?	2

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.