

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY292726
Inspection date	05/03/2009
Inspector	Nigel Lindsay Smith
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 2004. She lives with her husband and two children aged three and seven years in Brislington, Bristol, close to shops, parks, schools and public transport links. The whole of the childminder's home is used for childminding. She has fish as pets.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time and is currently minding four children under five years. She also offers care to children aged over five years to 11 years. This provision is registered by Ofsted on the Early Years Register, and both the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register.

The childminder collects children from the local school and attends toddler groups, and takes children on outings to the zoo, parks, the city farm, and soft play provision.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of care is good. The childminder has a clear understanding of how to identify the needs of individual children, and ensures all children are fully included in her setting. The childminder provides safe and secure care for children with whom she builds good relationships. Children make good progress in her care as she has a sound knowledge of the Early Years Foundation Stage and is committed to continually improving her practice. The childminder works closely with parents to identify and meet the individual needs of each child.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- develop effective communications with other Early Years Foundation Stage settings attended by the children in order to ensure that children's needs are met and there is continuity in their learning
- analyse the observations of children to help in planning "what next" for individuals and groups of children

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder uses her good understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage to support children well. She is committed to ongoing professional development and regularly attends training to update her practice, for example on equal opportunities. She demonstrates a good capacity for assessing her practice and maintaining continual improvement. Children's health, well-being and safety is promoted through comprehensive policies and procedures. Children are effectively safeguarded because the childminder has a good knowledge of child protection

issues and her policy and procedure meets the guidance of the Local Safeguarding Children Board. Children are safe in the setting and on outings due to the childminder's very thorough risk assessments, which are reviewed to ensure that they are effective. Children of different ages are included skilfully by the childminder in the activities at a level appropriate to their abilities.

The childminder establishes good relationships with parents and provides them with relevant information, for example through providing a newsletter. She informs them of forthcoming themes and invites them to discuss any requests that they may have in relation to their children's learning. The childminder has not established links with other settings attended by children minded by her which also provide the Early Years Foundation Stage.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children's learning and development is promoted well through a good range of activities provided by the childminder covering all the areas of learning. Children enjoy learning through planned activities, such as picking flowers from the garden and pressing them in order to make Mother's Day cards. Children also have the opportunity to choose their own activities and are well supported by the childminder's skill in helping them to explore and develop their interests. For example, a child talks about previously playing racing cars and the childminder takes the children outside with chalks and draws a race track, taking instructions from them. They then draw their own track and race toy cars together. Colours, concepts of 'narrow/wide' and 'faster/slower', mark-making with the chalks and letter sounds are included as the children thoroughly enjoy their play in the fresh air.

A 'choices' board with pictures of her resources enables children of all ages to ask the childminder for equipment of their choice. Children have good opportunities to develop their problem-solving skills; a child says 'the train's going slowly because it's working hard' as they experiment with adding carriages. Children's physical development is promoted through using the garden, regular walks and trips to parks where they climb and run. They develop their small muscle skills through craft activities, for example when using scissors. The childminder makes observations of the children and uses these in her planning for the next steps in promoting children's learning, although these are not used to their full potential.

Children learn self-care skills, for example washing their hands before eating. They enjoy healthy and nutritious food and drinks and they learn about healthy eating, for example why poached eggs are better for them than fried. Children learn about how to keep safe, for example by practising road safety when walking. They behave well because the childminder develops kind and caring relationships with them, with a good use of humour. They learn to respect each other and to understand the about valuing difference through using a good selection of equipment representing a range of cultures.

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?	2
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.