

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY293851
Inspection date	14/05/2009
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 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 partner and three children, aged seven, five and three years, in Hanham, South Gloucestershire, close to shops, parks, schools and public transport links. The ground floor lounge and kitchen diner, and the upstairs bathroom are used for childminding, and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. There are no pets.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of 3 children at any one time and is currently minding 1 child 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, compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register.

The childminder collects children from the local schools and takes children to the local park, the library and a soft play centre. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is good. Children make good progress and have an enjoyable experience at the setting. Their learning and development and welfare is promoted well by the childminder. She thoroughly assesses her practice in order to ensure good outcomes for children. Her good understanding of each child's individual needs ensures that all children are included.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- further develop opportunities for children to find out about and identify the uses of everyday technology and use information and communication technology and programmable toys to support their learning
- continue to develop observations and assessment systems in order to identify learning priorities for each child

The leadership and management of the early years provision

Children enjoy a balance of well-planned activities and opportunities to explore their environment for themselves. Policies and procedures effectively reflect the childminder's practice and are shared with parents. Children's achievement is well supported by the childminder's commitment to training and to evaluating her practice. She reviews her provision and identifies areas for development.

Children are safeguarded by the childminder's good knowledge of risk and appropriate steps to protect them, such as teaching them about road safety. Partnerships with parents are strong; the childminder provides a good range of

information such as a display in the hall, including what to do if they wish to make a complaint. She has appropriate arrangements in place to contact other providers who will also deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage to children looked after by her. These arrangements promote liaison so that the children benefit from shared discussion about their needs. All children are included fully in the setting as the childminder ensures that their individual needs are met.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children make good progress in their learning and development. The childminder uses her good understanding of the early learning goals in providing a range of interesting activities. Children enjoy a range of adult-led activities and those that they select for themselves.

Children sit on the sofa in the kitchen and explore the content of books while the childminder makes lunch. Later, they sit comfortably with the childminder's arms around them, enjoying stories as they look at the book. A child proudly recognises the number two, snakes and dogs as they play a recognition game with cards. They carefully water tomato plants and lettuces that they are responsible for, and then fill a pot, which they had previously painted, with soil and plant sunflower seeds. They use their imagination as they find a 'treasure map' in the wooded area in the garden; they say 'I'm looking for a ship' as they cup their hands around their eyes and pretend to use binoculars.

Children develop their large motor skills through using the equipment in the garden such as the bikes and the bouncy castle, and they benefit from fresh air and exercise as they go on daily walks. They show interest and enjoyment in the activities provided and in exploring the equipment for themselves. A child decides to look for a spider in a box of toy animals. The childminder joins in and supports their play as she asks them to find a crocodile and talks about the colour with them. The childminder informs parents of their children's achievements through monthly observations of their play. She is developing their use in her planning for the next steps in promoting the children's learning.

The childminder clearly communicates her expectations of sociable behaviour, encouraging children to share. They learn about keeping healthy as they enjoy a well balanced diet, which includes regular drinks. Good hygiene practices promote children's health, such as the use of antiseptic gel for all visitors. Children's well-being is promoted through the childminder's thorough risk assessments, which are reviewed monthly. They are appropriately safeguarded by her good knowledge of appropriate steps to take in the event of any child protection concerns.

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
---	-----

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