

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY297296
Inspection date	10/10/2008
Inspector	Dianne Andrews
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 2004. She lives with her husband and two school-age children in a semi-detached property in the town of Oswestry, North Shropshire. Children have use of the conservatory, kitchen, lounge for sleeping and the upstairs bathroom. There is an enclosed rear garden available for outdoor play.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association. She is currently minding two children in the early years age range on a part-time basis and is registered on the Early Years Register, the compulsory part of the Childcare Register and the voluntary part of the Childcare Register.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The childminder provides a warm and welcoming environment, which successfully promotes children's well-being and enjoyment. Most arrangements in place are suitable to ensure children's health, safety and welfare. Their individuality is recognised by the childminder who works to secure positive relationships with them and their parents, ensuring their needs are inclusively met. Children make good progress in their learning and are effectively supported by the childminder who provides them with a wide range of interesting activities. She is able to identify appropriate practice and is developing systems of self-evaluation to ensure continual improvement of the service she provides to children and their parents.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- improve resources and experiences to help children respect and value diversity
- ensure that the risk assessment is rigorous and covers anything that a child may come into contact with.

To fully meet the specific requirements of the EYFS, the registered person must:

- request written permission from all parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment.

28/10/2008

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder discusses children's individual needs with parents enabling her to plan activities according to the child's interests. The developing system for observations and the ongoing daily discussions with parents are used to identify learning targets to help children make good progress in their learning and

development.

The childminder uses the knowledge gained from the National Vocational Qualification recently completed to review her practices. As a result of the training she has a good knowledge of child development and is therefore able to extend children's learning well developing a flexible daily routine, so that children can take part in a range of activities indoor, outdoors and in the local area. She takes time to seek out resources and documentation to promote children's learning and development and has started to use self-evaluation methods to look at areas for improvement and to celebrate her strengths, although some weaknesses remain in the improvements from the last inspection, which have not been consistently met.

The childminder's effective knowledge of safeguarding procedures helps to protect children from harm and neglect and she clearly understands her role in reporting any concerns. Most records are maintained in line with requirements. Parents have access to a range of written policies to underpin the care service provided, which include a complaints and safeguarding policy. A written sick child policy is also in place to promote children's good health, however, consent to allow the childminder to access emergency medical treatment or advice has not been obtained for all children in her care. Risk assessments contain basic information about how potential hazards within the premises are addressed, however, an assessment of the risks within outings and activities children take part in have not been considered to fully promote their well-being. The equipment and toys are suitable and safe for children to use and there is suitable space available for them to play comfortably.

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 their interests and capabilities, for instance pre-school children construct with blocks available on the table, developing imaginative structures, while babies are supported to explore the building blocks while sitting on the floor. Older children count and learn about colour as they throw bean bags into a bucket and thoroughly enjoy bouncing and jumping in a variety of ways while being supervised on the trampoline in the garden, while their younger playmates watch with interest and amusement. The childminder helps develop their play by involving herself sensitively, asking questions and making suggestions. Through her engagement in activities children develop positive attitudes to learning.

Children learn to take care of their own needs as they wash their hands and faces after eating snacks or using the toilet and are encouraged to learn why the routines are important as the childminder explains about the effects of germs. They recognise when procedures, such as nappy changing, are altered and are inquisitive about the reasons for this, learning why using protective clothing helps to protect the youngest children's health. Children are able to make healthy choices and selections from the varied and balanced diet provided, enjoying the fruit and toast or crumpets provided at snack time. They learn to keep themselves safe as they help to tidy up their play environment and have some opportunities to practice the emergency evacuation procedures, but these are not carried out consistently.

Children are making good progress in developing skills for the future. They are encouraged to respect each other and the clear boundaries set by the childminder to help them to value each other's needs. They learn about their local environment as they go for walks in the community, but have fewer opportunities to take part in activities which develop their understanding of others and the wider world.

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?	Satisfactory
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	Satisfactory

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?	Satisfactory
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?	Satisfactory
How well are children helped to stay safe?	Satisfactory
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?	Satisfactory
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

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the National Standards.

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.

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