

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY330537
Inspection date	07/01/2009
Inspector	Dorcas Forgan
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 registered in 2006. She is registered on the Early Years Register and both the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. She lives with her partner, who is her assistant, in a three storey house in Medbourne, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire. Shops, toddler groups, a park, library and other amenities lie within walking distance. The childminder can take children to and collect them from, local schools and pre-schools.

Minded children mainly use the ground floor of the house, although children rest and sleep in a bedroom. Older children use some of the rooms on the second floor. A fully enclosed rear garden is available for outside play. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association. Her registration permits her to care for three children in the early years age range, at any one time. When she is working with an assistant this number is raised to five. She currently minds four children in the early years age range who attend on a part-time basis and one who is full time. The childminder is registered to care for children overnight. The childminder holds a relevant early years qualification.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The childminder has good systems in place to promote the children's welfare. The children play happily in a very well maintained safe environment with an assortment of suitable activities. The childminder makes sure that she understands the individual children very well, she shows compassion when they are new and settles them in sensitively. The childminder is establishing very good partnerships with the parents which enable her to ensure that all children are fully included in the provision. She evaluates her service and identifies areas where she can improve, such as developing her documentation and her knowledge of the Early Years Foundation Stage framework.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- develop further knowledge of the Early Years Foundation Stage and use the observations and assessments of the children to plan activities to help progress their individual development
- ensure risk assessments are carried out frequently

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder has begun to record her policies and procedures so that they are clear and available for the parents to read. She ensures that she has all the necessary relevant documentation from the parents. Since her last inspection she has improved the way she records the children's daily attendance, any accidents

they might have and the procedures for giving medication. The childminder gives the parents very comprehensive instructions about how to make a complaint. She has attended additional training in first aid and respite childcare. The childminder has a very clear understanding of her responsibility to safeguard the children. She carries out thorough safety checks in the home and uses safety equipment effectively to limit children's movement around the home so that she can supervise them at all times. The childminder is in the process of carrying out a more detailed risk assessment of all areas of her provision. The childminder makes observations of the children and along with the parents assesses the developmental needs for each child; she does not formally plan activities to achieve this. She asks parents to help monitor and evaluate her provision.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The home is very well organised and makes a pleasant learning environment for all the children, they have plenty of space to play freely and to make choices. They are making close relationships with the childminder and the other children. The childminder shows a genuine interest in the children's discoveries and encourages them to think for themselves and solve problems. For example, she watches and suggests ideas of how a child can untangle a toy from the stair gate, she provides support and praise. Children initiate their own games, confidently taking items out of a plastic storage drawer and sitting in it and making their own imaginary game, they show great delight, much fun and laughter. There are many opportunities for imaginary play, the children are very inventive, turning whistles into walking sticks and microphones into hairdryers. The childminder supports the children and asks them questions as they look at the poster, naming and counting the animals and talk about the colours on the ball. She encourages their communication skills effectively. Children discover connections as they work out how the cash register works, what turns it on and off, how it needs a battery to make it work, and how to make different signs pop up.

The childminder provides a regular routine; as close to the parents as possible, so that children feel safe and secure. They are learning very good personal hygiene routines. The childminder provides very healthy, well balanced, nourishing meals. The childminder plans outings with the children so that they spend time in the fresh air each day, if they cannot play in the garden they have time in the park or on a walk. The older children enjoy playing in the snow, cooperatively making a picture on the garden wall of a smiling snowman. Children learn to keep themselves safe. They regularly practise the emergency evacuation. As they walk in the local community they learn how to act safely around traffic. Children are starting to share and take turns with the guidance of the childminder, she explains carefully to each child why it is necessary and helps them to negotiate. They help to tidy away toys when they have finished with them. The childminder acts as a good role model reminding the children to say 'please' and 'thank you' and 'sorry' if they have hurt another. The childminder discusses behaviour management strategies with the parents at the start of the contract, this is to ensure that she treats all children in a similar way, suitable to their ability to understand.

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?	3
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?	3
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.