

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY342035
Inspection date	06/10/2008
Inspector	Kashma Patel
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 2007. She lives with her partner and their three year old son in Solihull. The childminders partner's son also lives at home from Friday to Monday and during some holidays. The childminder is registered to care for five children under the age of eight years. She is registered on the Early Years Register and on both the voluntary and compulsory parts of the Childcare Register. The childminder currently cares for two children on a part-time basis and picks up children from the local school and pre-school. The childminder has an early years qualification in childcare.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Children's individual needs are well met by the childminder who promotes children's learning and development in all areas. They have free access to a wide range of toys and resources which meets their individual developmental needs and offers them sufficient challenge. Children are well cared for in a warm and secure environment, however, the gas fire in the lounge is not guarded which potentially impacts on their safety.

The childminder is developing effective partnerships with parents through daily verbal and written feedback which ensures parents are kept well informed of their child's progress. The childminder ensures she keeps up-to-date with current child care practice which has a positive impact on the children she cares for. She effectively evaluates her practice which enables her to plan for the continuous improvement of the care and education she provides for young children.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- minimise all potential hazards with regard to gas fire.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

Children are well cared for by a suitable and appropriately qualified childminder. She is clear about her responsibility to ensure that all adults who spend time with the children are suitable to do so and knows what to do should she have any concerns. The childminder has devised a good range of written policies and procedures which are shared with parents to ensure children's individual needs are well met. The childminder offers excellent care for children and has started to devise a system to identify the key strengths and areas for improvement in her practice.

Children are generally safe in the home due to a detailed risk assessment which includes both the indoors and outdoors and is reviewed regularly. Daily checks are

also completed to identify potential hazards. However, the fire in the lounge is not fitted with a guard. The childminder explained that she usually take the knob off to prevent any danger of fire being switched on and had not taken it off on the day. The fire is also not switched on during the day. Children play in the conservatory where there is a wide range of toys and resources which are accessible, promoting free choice and independence.

The childminder has good partnerships and is very supportive to parents. For example, she is flexible in adapting the hours of care to suit the working patterns of parents. She also spends time talking to parents and gathering information before a child starts. This ensures that children's individual routines from home are followed.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children are happy and settling well with the childminder. She supports them in their learning through a wide range of interesting activities and resources which are appropriate for their age and stage of development. Individual profiles are completed about children's interests and their starting points which are then used to plan and provide appropriate activities to support each child's learning and development. The childminder has started to make observations on children's progress as they play and records this information to help her complete their assessments.

The childminder interacts effectively with children, asking questions and engaging them in conversation to support and promote their language skills. For example, children enjoy role play activities such as going to the doctors on the bus. They enjoying using the stethoscope to listen to the childminders heartbeat and looking into her ears with instruments. This helps to overcome any anxieties children may have about visiting the doctor. Children are developing an understanding of colours and shapes as they play with the play dough and use a range of tools for rolling and cutting. They develop their vocabulary and imagination as they choose their favourite books for the childminder to read. Regular walks in the community such as the park enables children to access fresh air and a range of large equipment which promote their physical development. They also learn about the changing seasons as they collect leaves and look for insects.

Children are learning to manage their behaviour through a firm and consistent approach. They are learning to share and show care consideration for each other by taking turns with toys. Children are well nourished and enjoy a well-balanced diet, which includes fresh fruit and vegetables which meets their individual dietary requirements. The childminder has all of the necessary records, policies and procedures in place which underpin the good quality of care provided. Children benefit from the childminder's commitment to training. She has an early years qualification in childcare and has attended child protection training. She is fully aware of her role and responsibilities, which ensures children safeguarded in her care.

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

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?	Good
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?	Good
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?	Good
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 registration no complaints have been made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage.

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.