

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY347800
Inspection date	11/09/2008
Inspector	Denys Rasmussen
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 2007. She lives with her husband and two children aged nine and six years. They live in a house close to shops, parks, library and public transport links. There is on-street parking available. All areas of the property are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The family have a pet cat. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time and there are currently four children on roll aged from 18 months to eight years. The childminder is on the Early Years Register, and both the voluntary and compulsory parts of the Childcare Register.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The stimulating and welcoming environment ensure children enjoy their time at the setting. The childminder's considerable knowledge of the children's individual needs ensure she supports them well. This helps children make good progress, given their age, ability and starting points. The childminder's procedures and inclusive practice promote children's learning and welfare with success. Effective self evaluation facilitates the childminder's continuous endeavour to make improvements in her service, helping to develop the experiences of the children who attend.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- develop the assessment arrangements by matching observations of the children to the expectations of the early learning goals.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

Effective safeguarding procedures ensure that children are well protected. For example, the childminder ensures that children are only collected by authorised people and that assistants are not employed until they have been subject to all the relevant checks. Although the childminder does not use a written self evaluation system presently, she is committed to improving her provision and has a valuable system in place. She talks to the parents and other childminders to gain an insight into developing her practice. She is improving her knowledge base by attending relevant training and has recently attended training in the Early Years Foundation Stage, safeguarding children and has completed a level three in home based childcare practice. The childminder works well with the parents of the children in her care, listening carefully to their concerns about their children and respecting their wishes in the care of their child. She liaises with the local school to ensure that information is shared to enable the children's needs to be met.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The childminder's individualised settling in procedures ensure children are relaxed and 'at home' in the setting where their needs are met appropriately. The childminder knows the children well. This helps her to provide good opportunities to help them progress. The childminder supports the children's interests, developing themes learnt at school. Although the childminder uses observation to assess children's progress and plan their day, she does not yet match them to the expectations of the early learning goals.

The children enjoy searching the garden for mini beasts and visiting local parks and community groups, supporting their knowledge and understanding of the world. Children are encouraged to be active learners when they experiment in the water tray, manipulate play dough and produce collages.

The childminder provides a healthy menu and talks to children about what foods are good for them to encourage them to eat healthily. She helps them to feel good about themselves by praising appropriately and rewarding good behaviour. Children are encouraged to make friends and build on their social skills when they are taken to local groups.

The childminder has a thorough understanding of creating a safe and welcoming environment in which risk is minimised and children learn to take care of themselves. Their independence is promoted when the childminder encourages children to eat for themselves; encourages them to wash their own hands and to clear their plates when they have finished eating. They are becoming adept at using small tools such as scissors and rollers and are learning to use them safely.

The childminder is clear about the parents wishes in the care of their child. All the required records are well maintained and there are good systems in place to protect children's health. For example, alerting parents to exclusion periods for infectious illnesses.

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?	Good
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

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since registration.

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.