

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY364470
Inspection date	16/09/2008
Inspector	Sheena Bankier
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 is registered on the Early Years, and both the voluntary and compulsory parts of the Childcare Register. The childminder lives with her husband and two children in Tilehurst, Berkshire. The whole of the house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. Local amenities are in walking distance, such as shops, library, parks and schools. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time. She is currently caring for two children in the early years age range on a part time basis. The family has a dog, two cats and two rabbits.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The childminder has a very good understanding of the children's individual needs. She is able to promote their welfare and learning needs effectively. Children are valued and respected as individuals. Children's cultural and religious needs are fully considered by the childminder through the appropriate care and experiences she provides. The childminder has secure relationships with the children and good partnerships with parents. She works closely with parents and provides them with detailed information regarding their children's day, development and progress. Written policies and procedures are provided to parents. These ensure they have a clear understanding of the service provided.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- develop further knowledge and understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage and ensure children's development and progress are clearly linked to this
- review and extend the risk assessments in place to ensure all identifiable hazards and risks are included
- provide information to promote healthy eating for parents

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder organises her childminding service effectively. She is secure in her role and her aims and objectives for her childminding service. Routines are established, such as, daily and weekly safety checks which are undertaken. This promotes the safety of the children in her care. Children's welfare is safeguarded. Although risk assessments have been completed for her home and for outings these do not cover all areas, such as, walking to local facilities, to further secure children's safety. The childminder has a sound understanding of her responsibilities to safeguard children from harm. She has a good knowledge and understanding of how to manage any concerns which may arise.

Paperwork is well organised and maintained, for example, accurate records of attendance are in place. The childminder has used the self evaluation well to identify her main strengths and weaknesses. She has identified how she intends to develop her childminding service.

The childminder is committed to providing individual care for children. Detailed information is gained from parents about their children, such as home routines and care needs. This enables her to provide consistent routines which promote continuity for children. Overall good communication is in place with parents which results in effective partnerships with parents.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The childminder has a good knowledge of the Early Years Foundation Stage which she is building on. She plans experiences for the children based on their age and individual stage of development. Information about planned experiences are displayed for parents and discussed. This keeps parents well informed and enables them to discuss the plans with the childminder. Local facilities are used with the children which promotes their understanding of the community. Children's development and progress are recorded, for example, using written observations and photographs. Children's next steps in learning are identified from the observations the childminder undertakes. Children's development is linked to the overarching early learning goal, however, this does not offer such a detailed record of children's development and progress.

Children are happy and secure in the childminder's care. Good relationships have been developed which are warm and caring. Children's interests are followed and responded to positively, such as wanting to look at books or sing songs. The childminder supports children well, ensuring they have her time and attention as well as space to develop their independence. Children develop social skills and learn about sharing through visits to other childminder's homes and toddler groups. Outings to the library are undertaken which develop children's interest and enjoyment of books.

An inviting and attractive environment is provided to children. Posters are displayed at a low height for children. Toys and books are accessible on bright floor mats. Children benefit from a good range of resources in and out of doors which are age and stage appropriate. These enable children to make choices and to explore and investigate. Children also have access to the toy box where they can make other choices. Children have a quiet place to sleep and rest upstairs. They have individual bedding which is washed after each use. This avoids cross infection. Appropriate safety equipment is used which promotes children's safety, for example, cupboards and drawers have safety locks and there is a safety gate across the kitchen door.

Parents mostly provide the food for children which is stored appropriately. Some information is provided to parents regarding healthy eating expectations by the childminder. Healthy choices are encouraged by the childminder, such as bread sticks for snack at the toddler group. Routines for meals and sleep times are

consistent with home routines, such as, times and how children are settled to sleep. As a result children feel secure.

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

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

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.