

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY369938
Inspection date	23/10/2008
Inspector	Anne Archer
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 2008. She lives with her partner and child aged two years in Wellingborough, Northamptonshire. The ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding with access to a play room and sleeping area on the first floor. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder works jointly with her mother, who is also a registered childminder. When working alone she may care for a maximum of five children under eight years, including two children in the early years group. When working jointly with another childminder she may care for a maximum of eleven children including five in the early years age group. The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register, the Compulsory part of the Childcare Register and the Voluntary part of the Childcare Register.

The childminder takes children to local pre-schools, nurseries and schools. She attends local parent and toddler groups, takes children to the local park and has the use of a vehicle to transport children. The childminder has a level three qualification in Early Years and Education and is a member of the National Childminding Association.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The childminder offers a professional, inclusive service to each child that attends her setting ensuring that their welfare and learning and development needs are met effectively and that they make significant progress, given their age, ability and starting points. Strong partnerships established between the childminder and children's parents and other interested adults ensure that each is fully aware of the next steps for the child. The secure planning, observation and assessment systems and evident self-reflection ensure that the service is constantly evolving to cater for the changing needs of the children in childminder's care.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- continue to develop the system used for recording risk assessments
- ensure that the fire blanket is easily accessible for use in an emergency

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder is fully focused on helping children to progress in their learning and development to the best of their ability. She is supported by her co-childminder and they work together to encourage and support children to achieve to their full potential. The childminder regularly reflects on her practice and takes into account the views of parents and children when deciding upon areas for

development. Although qualified to level three in Early Years and Education and with several years experience of working in an early years setting, she is committed to self-improvement to enable her to better support children's welfare and learning.

The childminder recognises the importance of co-operation between herself and parents and works hard to achieve good working relationships and to this end, she has a transparent complaints procedure. Parents are kept informed of children's progress by daily verbal and written feedback and children's next steps in learning are agreed together.

Safeguarding procedures are in place and the childminder is fully aware of her responsibility to report any concerns and to keep children safe both while in the home and when on outings. The childminder has identified potential hazards within her home and garden and takes appropriate steps to eliminate risk. However, the regular risk assessments carried out are not yet fully recorded and the fire blanket in her kitchen is not immediately accessible if needed in an emergency which may affect children's safety.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The childminder supports children's learning and development very well. As a result, children make significant gains in their learning and progress towards the early learning goals in relation to their starting points and capabilities. She uses her valuable knowledge of early years to confidently help children learn both indoors and outside.

Well planned activities ensure that every child enjoys and is suitably challenged by the interesting learning experiences provided. Based on regular observations and knowledge of each child's interests gained from parents and carers, the activities are well matched to the full range of children's needs so that they all succeed. Children enjoy action songs such as Miss Polly, create works of art from a range of materials and glue, make structures with colourful building bricks and make regular visits the park.

Children are taught strategies to keep themselves healthy and safe. They learn how to use scissors and other equipment properly and know to wash their hands before eating their snacks and meals. The childminder cares for children appropriately when they become ill and the measures used to prevent the spread of infection further promote children's good health. Children are encouraged to, and do behave well as they learn how to take account of their own and other peoples needs and feelings. They have every opportunity to make choices and decisions as they go about their play. The childminder promotes good behaviour by giving praise before it is sought and by encouraging and supporting children to acquire good habits as active, inquisitive and independent learners. Children's welfare is strongly supported by the clear procedures and policies and the good practices of the childminder.

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?	Outstanding
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?	Outstanding
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.