

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY337708
Inspection date	17/11/2008
Inspector	Fran Fielder
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 2006. She works from her parents' home in Nutley, near Uckfield. The whole of the ground floor of the house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outdoor play. The house is accessed over a raised threshold.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children under eight years and is currently caring for five children all on a part time basis. Four children are within the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). She is registered with Ofsted on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Child Care Register.

The childminder holds an appropriate early years qualification and has experience of working in nurseries.

The childminder's parents have two dogs and a horse. Her mother was a registered childminder for many years and is now the childminder's assistant. The childminder attends local parent and toddler groups, takes children to the local park and for walks in the forest.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The childminder's qualification and experience allow her to meet effectively the learning and development needs of the children in her care. She knows the children well and understands the importance of treating each child as an individual. The information she gathers from and shares with parents before children are placed in her care is somewhat vague and at times inconsistent. She is beginning to reflect on her practice and has identified some areas for improvement which indicates her capacity to improve is good.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- improve the partnership with parents by ensuring consistency in the information gathered, shared and discussed before a child is placed
- consider ways of recording risk assessments for the premises and outings
- continue to develop the planning of activities based on individual learning needs

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder has a good understanding of her role in safeguarding children. All adults within the home are suitable to be in contact with children. She has effective contingency plans in place to ensure children are cared for by a suitable

person in the event of an emergency. The premises are safe and she has carried out a full risk assessment and is aware of how to keep children safe on outings. She takes all necessary information and equipment with her such as parents' contact details, a first aid kit and a mobile phone. However, there is no clear system of recording ongoing assessments and any amendments she makes.

The childminder is passionate about her work with children and shows commitment to developing her knowledge of child care and education. She has completed an early years qualification and is keen to attend further training. Although her self evaluation process is in the early stages, she is beginning to look at ways to help her improve the outcomes for children. All required documentation is up to date and carefully maintained. She gathers sufficient information from parents and uses a care diary as well as informal feedback to ensure continuity of care. Parents feel confident about asking her advice regarding issues such as behaviour management.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The childminder spends time getting to know the children and finding out what activities they enjoy. Her experience in a pre-school setting means she is aware of what children can learn from the activities. Her observations are good and help her identify the children's next steps for learning. She plans a good range of activities that cover all areas of learning. Children enjoy sand and water play, painting, singing, dressing up and listening to stories. Although her system of planning is still in the developmental stage, she shows a good understanding of how to support individuals.

The children are confident and relaxed when with the childminder who is warm and affectionate. Her attention is focussed on the children's enjoyment. She organises the environment well to allow children to choose freely from a good range of toys and resources. They enjoy playing with push along toys, building towers and operating battery controlled trains. They especially enjoy 'talking' on the telephone and the childminder asks open-ended questions that help children organise their thoughts. She supports early language development by talking to the children about what they are doing and by repeating what they say using the correct language and grammar. The childminder's knowledge of local wildlife helps children learn about their environment as they walk through the forest. Visits to toddler clubs give children the opportunity to socialise.

The childminder has a positive approach to behaviour management. Continual praise and reward stickers ensure children feel good about themselves and their achievements. This helps children develop a positive attitude to learning.

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?	3
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	3
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?	3
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?	3
How well are children safeguarded?	2

Quality and standards

How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?	2
How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?	3
How well are children helped to stay safe?	2
How well are children helped to be healthy?	3
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	2
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	3
How well are children helped develop skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being?	3

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.