

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY344571
Inspection date	01/12/2008
Inspector	Tracy Bartholomew

Type of setting	Childminder
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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 2006. She is registered on the Early Years Register, compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. She lives with her partner and child aged two years in Reading, Berkshire. There are shops, toddler groups and parks within walking distance.

The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding with sleep facilities available on the first floor. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The childminder is registered to care for five children at any one time and is currently minding one child in the early years on a part time basis.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Children have a variety of experiences available to them whilst in the care of the childminder; they regularly enjoy visiting places of interest which assist their learning and development. She provides a suitably inclusive setting and understands how to establish effective relationships with parents and others concerned with the children. She has begun to evaluate her practice suitably and shows good capacity to improve.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- develop knowledge of the Early Years Foundation Stage to provide children with activities that can be used to assess and plan for their progress across all areas of learning
- ensure that the fire blanket is fitted according to BSEN safety standards
- ensure children are offered planned, purposeful play, with a balance of adult-led and child-initiated activities

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder is committed to her role, and ensures that the children are safeguarded and documentation shows her devotion to provide a safe and professional service. She risk assesses her home satisfactorily to ensure that the children are safe; however, the fire blanket is not fitted to BSEN safety standards. She shares a full range of suitable written policies with parents. In addition the childminder ensures that the parents are fully aware of the children's experiences with her through use of daily diaries and regular phone contact. This in turn effectively promotes continuity of care.

The childminder reflects on her practice and identifies areas for improvement accurately. She takes a committed approach to updating her knowledge by undertaking regular training. The childminder is aware of the need to attend in-

depth training to develop her skills of the EYFS, and is awaiting courses to enable her to provide more scenic activities that can be used to assess and plan for children's development and learning stages.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The childminder uses her sound knowledge of child development to provide suitable play activities and experiences for children. However, she lacks some awareness of the requirements within the EYFS, such as ensuring children are provided with activities that are planned around the six areas of learning. Nevertheless, the children clearly enjoy playing with a range toys and equipment. For example, making cups of tea with the tea set and colouring in Christmas pictures.

The childminder offers a good balance of indoor and outdoor learning experiences. Outings in the local community broaden children's experiences well, for example, visiting the local river, going to toddler groups and odds farm park. These support the development of children's physical skills, whilst developing the social skills.

The childminder knows the children well; she has documentation in place to monitor children's development, however these do not effectively support children's learning in all areas. The childminder offers a clean, homely environment. She prevents cross-infection well, keeping parents informed of when their children must not attend due to illness. Effective processes are in place to help children learn about healthy living. The childminder understands the need to teach children good personal hygiene routines and how they can keep healthy through exercise and eating healthy foods.

The childminder recognises her responsibilities for safeguarding children's welfare. She identifies potential hazards to children's safety well and minimises these effectively. Suitable emergency evacuation procedures are in place.

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.	3

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?	2
How well are children safeguarded?	3

Quality and standards

How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?	3
How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?	3
How well are children helped to stay safe?	3
How well are children helped to be healthy?	2
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	3
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.