

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY362599
Inspection date	12/11/2008
Inspector	Christine Cutts
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 and is registered to care for children on the Early Years register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. She lives in Slough, Berkshire with her husband and two young children. They live close to local amenities, schools, parks and shops. The family do not have any pets. Children have access to the whole of the downstairs including downstairs facilities and the first floor is not used for childminding. Children can play in the large garden which is mainly open plan to grass. The childminder is happy to take children to and from local schools, nurseries and pre-school. Children have opportunities to visit local parks, toddler groups and the library and go on outings. The childminder is registered to care for four children. Currently the childminder is minding two children full time and one older child in school holidays.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The childminder provides a safe and secure home environment in which children enjoy a busy time accessing a variety of activities. The children's welfare is well promoted with the childminder having a clear understanding of safeguarding issues. The childminder acknowledges children's likes and interests, building on these to offer experiences to extend their learning and development, recognising the uniqueness of every child. All children are fully included and given additional support if needed. The childminder has undertaken appropriate training and is committed to continuing to improve the quality of the provision. The childminder has taken positive action to address recommendations made at registration, which has helped to further promote the safety of children, such as the childminder putting into place all the safety issues raised at time of registration, including fitting a fire blanket in the kitchen, and completing a current first aid course and registration childcare course.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- continue to promote children's learning and development through extending the planning, observation and assessment systems to show how the information leads to the child's next steps
- continue developing self evaluation systems to promote continuous improvement

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder has a good awareness of safeguarding procedures and she shares her written policy with all parents. She shows a commitment to improving her knowledge and awareness of relevant issues by completing further training, such as All of us inclusion - check list for settings. Children's safety is protected well by

close supervision at all times. There is a full risk assessment in place and the childminder carries out daily checks of the premises and resources to ensure that they are safe for children to use. The children develop an understanding of keeping themselves safe, with the childminder holding regular fire drills, and learn road safety when on outings.

The childminder is developing her confidence in the process of self-evaluation and has recently identified areas for improvement, such as more feedback from parents on how well they think their children are doing and if they are happy with the care given.

Parents receive information about the childminding service because the childminder makes all the policies and procedures available and they have access to all written records about their children. Daily discussions and diaries provide information about children's activities and routines. The introduction of observations also helps to provide parents with further information about their child's development and achievements. The childminder collects information about each child at induction which enables her to build on what the child already knows and can do. Documentation is well organised and written policies and procedures are effective in promoting children's health and welfare.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children are very happy and settled in the childminder's care. She gives them confidence to be themselves and express their individuality. They are secure and relaxed in their play, confident of support but able to develop their own ideas, first drawing then asking for paints to make fireworks pictures, using brushes and their hands to fully enjoy the experience. This promotes good self-esteem and enhances their independent motivation to explore freely. A suitable range of resources is organised in low level boxes to offer children choices and promote independent, active learning. The childminder supports the children well and gets down to their level to engage them in their play. For example, young children play with the finger puppets, play food and musical instruments. The childminder undertakes regular observation of children and uses these to identify their next steps.

However, this information is not yet used to plan for children's ongoing development needs. The informal planning reflects the childminder's awareness of individual interest so that there is appropriate challenge and stimulus in children's play within a flexible routine that meets the needs of all the children. Children make good progress in all areas of learning, tracked by the childminder using the Early Years Foundation Stage assessment guides. Children are encouraged to develop their communication skills, using the finger puppets to talk in character. They name colours when painting as well as develop skills in mark making. Children's health and safety are well promoted. They have plenty of space inside to move around freely and learn control when using pencils, crayons and paints. Children enjoy the park and nature walks regularly. They learn about healthy living and healthy eating through the good practices encouraged by the childminder. Children eat nutritious snacks and meals with drinks available at all times. The childminder takes the necessary steps to prevent the spread of infection, such as children having wipes to keep hands clean, and appropriate action is taken when

children are ill. Children are well behaved and encouraged to consider others, they are asked who they are painting their pictures for and encouraged to share the toys. They are well mannered and enjoy each other's company. The childminder helps children to become familiar with their own community through role play and outings, and also raises awareness of other cultures through resources which reflect other cultures and languages.

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?	2
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	2
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?	2
How effective is the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement?	2
How well does the setting work in partnership with parents and others?	2
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?	2
How well are children helped to stay safe?	2
How well are children helped to be healthy?	2
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	2
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	2
How well are children helped develop skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being?	2

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.

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.