

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY369136
Inspection date	08/12/2008
Inspector	Gillian Little
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 in a village near Witney with her husband and two children aged nine and five. The whole of the childminder's house is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outdoor play.

The childminder offers care on a daily basis and walks to the local school to take and collect children. She is registered to care for a maximum of five children under eight at any one time. She is registered on the Early Years Register to care for three children in the early years age group and is currently minding three children on a part-time basis. She is registered on the compulsory part of the Childcare Register to care for children in the later years age group and is currently minding three children. She is also registered on the voluntary part of the Childcare Register to care for children aged eight and above, although there are no older children currently on roll.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association. She regularly helps during session times in the local Foundation Stage Unit.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Children thrive in a stimulating, caring and safe environment where the childminder supervises them very closely and offers them good levels of support in their play and learning. The childminder shows a strong commitment to inclusive practice and works closely with parents to meet children's individual needs. She evaluates her practice effectively and is very aware of areas for further development including some areas of documentation. She is well organised and continues to develop her knowledge and understanding of childcare practice through ongoing training.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- continue to develop systems for recording observations and assessments of children's progress and their next steps in learning
- further develop partnerships with other providers who share the care of minded children to ensure consistency in children's learning and development.

To fully meet the specific requirements of the EYFS, the registered person must:

- maintain a record of risk assessments for outings (Documentation).

22/12/2008

The leadership and management of the early years provision

Children are able to play safely in a comfortable and welcoming environment where the childminder supervises them very closely at all times to ensure their safety and well-being. Robust and carefully thought out risk assessments of the premises effectively reduce the risk of accidents to children. The childminder does not currently keep a record of risk assessments for outings, which is a breach in regulation, although she is aware to do this and in practice demonstrates a sound understanding of how to keep children safe when away from the home. The impact on children is therefore minimal. Written policies are simple and easy to read while including relevant information, and parents all have their own copies of these to ensure that they understand the childminder's procedures. The childminder ensures that all adults in her home have appropriate background checks and she has a good understanding of safeguarding procedures having attended relevant training courses. Her commitment to inclusion ensures that all children are able to take part in the activities on offer. She welcomes all families into her setting and uses her experience and training to develop good relationships with all parents. She ensures that parents have clear information about her childminding service and provides them with regular feedback about their children's progress and welfare. Written comments from parents in preparation for the inspection show that the childminder develops loving relationships with their children and provides a different range of activities on a daily basis. The childminder effectively identifies areas for further improvement in her practice, and her commitment to further training ensures that she is effectively developing her knowledge and understanding of childcare.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children thoroughly enjoy their play and learning and are able to make good progress towards the early learning goals. The childminder sets out an attractive range of resources in the living room which children can access easily, encouraging them to explore and develop skills in all areas of learning. They enjoy making 'drinks' in the play kitchen, listening to stories, developing their imagination using a range of dolls, figures and accessories, as well as exploring musical instruments and toys with buttons and flashing lights. Children are very relaxed with the childminder, snuggling up on her lap to feed the baby dolls or to look at books. The childminder is close at hand to support children at all times. She carefully follows the children's individual interests supporting them effectively through good levels of interaction and encouraging them to use the different resources so that they develop a variety of skills. When children of different ages attend together the childminder ensures that activities can be adapted to suit their different needs so that all children are included. She is very aware of children's favourite activities ensuring that these are available to them and adding other resources to encourage them to develop a wider range of skills. Children have lots of opportunities for outdoor play often visiting the local park on a daily basis, and the younger children enjoy weekly visits to the rural Playbus where they enjoy activities such as sand, dressing up and puppet shows. Children learn how to keep themselves safe when away from the home, such as learning not to run off and to check roads before

crossing over. They learn how to behave well as the childminder acts as a good role model and encourages them to help around the home, such as helping to get the table ready for lunch, so that they feel involved and valued. They develop an understanding of a healthy lifestyle as the childminder provides them with nutritious food, such as fish pie, yogurts and fruit, and encourages them to wash or wipe their hands explaining how germs can spread. The childminder records her observations of children's progress and the activities which they enjoy in daily diaries which she shares with parents. She is beginning to consider how to link these observations to the Early Years Foundation Stage and to record children's next steps in learning. She develops relationships with other providers who share the care of minded children, such as helping out during sessions in the local Foundation Stage Unit, and exchanges information with staff about children's welfare. She is not yet currently exchanging information about children's development and learning but is willing to do this to develop further consistency.

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 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.