

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY344689
Inspection date	18/11/2008
Inspector	Caroline Hearn
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 registered in 2006. She is registered on the Early Years Register and both the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. The childminder lives with her husband and two children aged one and four in Theale, Berkshire. The whole of the house is registered for childminding and is readily accessible. There is an enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children under eight years at any one time and is currently minding one child on a part-time basis.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The childminder has a good understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage and how best to effectively implement this for all children. The children are clearly happy to be in her care and close, trusting relationships are evident. Children undertake a wide range of activities although these tend to have a strong emphasis on indoor based experiences. To ensure her policies fully support her good practice the childminder needs to ensure she includes written risk assessments of outings and details of local child protection procedures.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- ensure outings are fully covered by the risk assessments
- increase awareness of local child protection procedures
- consider how outdoor learning opportunities can be extended

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder is clearly able to reflect on her practice and identify areas for future development. She has a good understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage and has adapted all of her documentation and developmental records to reflect this. These are shared with parents to ensure they understand and are involved in the care offered to their children.

Children are safeguarded as the childminder has a good understanding of how to identify signs of abuse and or neglect. However her policy lacks the finer details of the local child protection procedures. Inclusion is well thought through and although not currently caring for a child with a physical disability the childminder has ensured her house is adapted to allow for wheelchair access.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children enjoy their time with this childminder, they are offered activities which promote their continued development. This is due to the childminder taking time to get to know them and their preferences. Each child's development is recorded and used to plan for the next steps of learning. Children who learn to fit shapes into a sorter are then moved on to a more complicated one or the learning is extended by asking them to find certain colours. The childminder understands the need to ask young children open ended questions and give them choices to encourage their thought processes and negotiating skills. The children are provided with an ample supply of resources which due to the low level storage they can freely access. The childminder ensures children are offered experiences which cover all of the areas of learning, such as trips to the local toddler group to enable their social development and to learn about the wider world. The childminder plans her week to ensure the children have time to undertake creative activities such as painting. All of which are carefully fitted in around the children's established sleep routines to ensure they do not become overtired. Children go out for walks and to the local park in fine weather but this may not be every day. As the childminder is currently having some building work done access to the garden is temporarily restricted.

The childminder interacts well with the children, taking a calm but positive approach, so being a good role model for them. She gives clear explanations as to her expectations of them, such as helping them learn to share. Consequently, children behave well. Children are able to freely explore the environment due to the careful consideration which the childminder has given to risk assessment. However, she has not as yet documented all of her visual assessments for outings to give a true picture of how she risk assess these. Children are safeguarded from the spread of infection as the childminder encourages them to follow simple everyday routines such as hand washing and not sharing cups. The childminder promotes healthy eating by encouraging parents to make healthy choices when it comes to providing children's pack lunches.

The childminder ensures the parents are provided with clear information about her childminding. Her policy pack makes clear links to the requirements and gives a detailed explanation of each childcare register. This ensures parents understand the care being offered to their children.

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.