

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	103237
Inspection date	07/10/2008
Inspector	Julie Wright
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 2001. She lives with her husband and two children, aged 12 and 10, on the outskirts of St Austell. Minded children have access to the lounge, playroom, kitchen and toilet facilities. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outdoor play.

When working alone, the childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children, aged from birth to eight years, of whom four may be in the early years age group. The childminder is also registered to work with an assistant. There are currently eight children attending on a part-time basis. The provision is registered by Ofsted on the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. The childminder is accredited and a member of the Restormel Childminding Group.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Children make excellent progress in the care of the childminder. She is highly effective in her provision of a very safe and stimulating environment for them. Partnerships with parents and others are strong, which securely promotes consistent care and inclusion. Individual needs are very well met in the setting as the childminder has high regard for the requirements of parents and their children. The childminder successfully monitors and evaluates her provision as she strives for continuous improvement.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

To further improve the high quality early years provision the registered person should consider:

- further develop the observation and assessment records of children to clearly link with planning for their individual progress.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder is meticulous in her approach to professional practice. She is suitably qualified and continues to attend numerous courses in order to remain well informed. She has made excellent preparations for her accreditation and the implementation of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) framework. The childminder has extremely good organisational skills and a clear understanding of the conditions of registration. She works effectively with an assistant to meet ratios and provide extended support to children. Effective systems are in place and being further developed to ensure continuous improvement. For example, in her self-evaluation the childminder clearly identifies areas to further develop. The childminder is currently working towards improved access to create 'free-flow' outdoor play opportunities.

Children are very happy and secure in the childminder's home. They benefit highly from the stimulating and well organised routines and activities. The childminder is vigilant in her approach to safety as she conducts and reviews full risk assessments. She encourages children to be conscious about safety, both indoors and out. For instance, they clearly understand the fire drill, house rules and expectations of behaviour. Children know that they must hold hands when walking near the road and look and listen for vehicles. Resources are very well maintained and effectively promote equal opportunities for children.

The partnership with parents is very positive and well established by the childminder. She provides a wealth of information for parents and has frequent discussions about children and their welfare. A daily diary sheet is provided for each child, which is a good method of communication at busy times of the day. The childminder regularly seeks ideas and comments from parents and children and then acts on these accordingly. For instance, she purchases suggested additional resources to further enhance the play and learning opportunities for children. Parent feedback is extremely positive and they highly commend her care of the children. Comprehensive policies and procedures are in place and shared with parents. These are regularly updated and parents are immediately notified of any amendments. The childminder maintains an exceptional standard of record keeping.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children thoroughly enjoy their time with the childminder. They are engrossed in their activities, which provide an extensive variety of learning opportunities. The childminder fully promotes all areas of learning and children make excellent progress in their development. They are confident communicators and have good levels of self-esteem. Children are very proud of their achievements, such as their creative paintings displayed on the wall. They are very sociable and enjoy secure relationships with the childminder, her family and each other. The routines include various and frequent outings for the children, where they show a keen interest in the world around them. For example, children are fascinated by farm and zoo animals. A trip to the beach prompts children to collect pebbles, shells and seaweed to make sculptures with. The childminder encourages child-initiated play and follows their interests. For instance, during the 'insect' theme they paint pictures of spiders, which then leads on to a hunt for 'mini-beasts' in the garden. Children contribute their ideas towards planning and are often asked about their most and least favourite activities. Their comments are very positive, showing how much fun they have. The childminder is declared by children to be 'the best in the world'.

The childminder knows the children very well and takes account of their individual learning styles and interests. For example, further resources are supplied to promote hand to eye coordination for a child with a particular interest in animals. Detailed observation and assessments are made on each child, which include parental contributions. Next steps for children are identified, although these do not fully link to planning. The childminder provides a very good balance of support to children in their play and learning. She recognises that children have natural curiosity and benefit from time to investigate and explore independently. Children

concentrate very well in activities, for example, they listen carefully to animal sounds in a game of lotto, then take delight in matching the sound to the pictures. The childminder involves all children and skilfully adapts the game to suit their ages and abilities. This means that children fully benefit from age-appropriate challenges that retain their interest. Children are enthusiastic in their play and are keen learners, willingly joining in the activities. They enjoy interactive story times that include toys or puppets, which make the book fun for children. Photographs and development files provide significant evidence of children's continuous progress in the care of the childminder.

The childminder is very competent and has secure knowledge and confidence in the delivery of the EYFS framework. She works closely with parents and is forging excellent links with other providers of the EYFS. This means that the individual needs of children are securely met and that their learning experiences are complemented. The childminder provides a very good range of planned themes, activities and child-initiated play. She makes learning fun and interesting through a variety of activities and new experiences for children. For example, she has recently introduced simple signing to children in 'sing and sign' sessions. The childminder has high regard for the parents and children, welcoming their contributions to planning and learning opportunities. Through reflective practice, she demonstrates an exemplary commitment to continuous improvement.

Annex A: record of inspection judgements

The key inspection judgements and what they mean

Outstanding: this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality

Good: this aspect of the provision is strong

Satisfactory: this aspect of the provision is sound

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?	Outstanding
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	Outstanding
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	Outstanding

Leadership and management

How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?	Outstanding
How effective is the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement?	Outstanding
How well does the setting work in partnership with parents and others?	Outstanding
How well are children safeguarded?	Outstanding

Quality and standards

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

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 the last inspection.

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.