

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY303710
Inspection date	13/10/2008
Inspector	Shirley Ann Jackson
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 2005. She lives in Chipping Norton with her husband and child aged four years. She can care for a maximum of five children under the age of eight years. The whole of her home is registered to care for children, but most care takes place downstairs. The childminder's home is within walking distance of the local school, shops and park. The family have two dogs, two cats, a rabbit and tropical fish.

The childminder is on the Early Years Register and both the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. There are currently six children on roll aged from two to seven years. The childminder also cares for five children over the age of eight years. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The childminder promotes many aspects of children's welfare with success, ensuring that they are safe and secure. All children are actively involved in activities, although planning, observation and assessment are in their infancy. There is a close working partnership with parents which ensures that they are kept well informed of most issues in relation to their child's care and learning. The childminder's use of self-evaluation to identify strengths and areas for development is not yet robust enough to ensure that all gaps in her provision are identified.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- ensure that the fire blanket is appropriately fixed and ready for use
- ensure that planned activities and experiences are linked to areas of learning and are appropriate for the age and stage of the children attending
- undertake sensitive observational assessment linked to all areas of learning to make sure that over time all areas are covered

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

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| • complete an appropriate paediatric first aid course (safeguarding and promoting children's welfare) (also applies to both part of the Childcare Register) | 22/11/2008 |
| • carry out a full risk assessment for each type of outing, this must be reviewed before embarking on each specific outing (safeguarding and promoting children's welfare) | 31/10/2008 |
| • maintain an accurate record of the times of attendance of the children (documentation) (also applies to both part of the Childcare Register) | 14/10/2008 |

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder's home is sufficiently well organised to help children to have some opportunities to become independent learners. Flexible daily routines allow them to experience a varied range of activities in the home and to develop their knowledge of the wider community. For example, children visit the library, toddler and singing groups. The childminder's policies and procedures are used effectively to promote most aspects of children's welfare. Most records are in place and are well maintained. However, an accurate record of children's times of attendance is not always completed. The childminder has assessed her home for safety and has minimised most potential risks to the children. However, her fire blanket is not fitted to give easy access in an emergency and she has not conducted a full risk assessment of all outings undertaken with the children.

The childminder does not hold a current first aid certificate, posing a risk to children's health. Records of accidents are appropriately recorded and shared with parents. The childminder promotes other aspects of children's health and well-being through established daily routines. For example, before snack children's hands are wiped with wet wipes and before lunch they wash their hands with soap and dry them on paper towels. The risk of cross infection is minimised as the childminder informs parents of the importance of keeping sick children at home.

The childminder is committed to ensuring that her service is inclusive for all families. The childminder shares her folder with parents when they first come to meet her. This includes details of her policies and procedures as well as training certificates and other relevant information. When care begins, the childminder has informal conversations with parents when they collect their children. Parents can also look at their child's progress record. The childminder has started to make links with other providers offering the curriculum, but this is in it's infancy. The recommendation raised at the last inspection has been fully implemented into the childminder's practice, promoting children's well-being.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children settle well and are comfortable in the company of the childminder and others attending. They are actively involved in the suitable range of resources and activities offered to them. The childminder is ready to become involved in their play if children want or she is happy to let them take the lead. The range of activities and experiences offered cover all areas of learning, although the childminder is not yet confident with the new curriculum to see the early steps in children's learning. The local area and groups are used to develop children's knowledge and skills. For example, they regularly visit a singing group and local play park. Children's natural curiosity is promoted as they find objects to examine on the walks to and from school. The childminder helps to develop children's language as she introduces new vocabulary as they play. Children giggle and laugh as they find new ways to use the wooden train, for example, using it to massage each other's back. Children's creativity is fostered as the childminder encourages them to use the range of craft

resources which are easily accessible. Systems to plan, observe and evaluate children's learning are in their infancy and are not always linked to the appropriate stage that each child is at. Observations of the children include the next step for each child, but these are not always linked to an area of learning or a specific goal.

The children are offered a healthy range of snacks and meals during their time with the childminder. She uses these times to talk to children about healthy foods and eating their five portions of fruit and vegetables each day. Children learn through first-hand experiences how to keep themselves safe. For example, when out walking, the childminder uses the 'footsteps' method to teach children about road safety. The childminder encourages the children to play and take turns by reminding them to 'swap' toys rather than snatching them. She is a positive role model for the children with her calm and friendly manner. The children follow her lead and their behaviour is good.

The childminder makes regular use of her outdoor play area. Here the children enjoy exercise and fresh air as they play with a variety of resources which encourage their mobility, balance and curiosity. For example, they balance on two pieces of wood and inspect and slug and a snail they found.

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

Leadership and management

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

Quality and standards

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

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: Not Met (with actions)

The provider confirms that the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register are: Not Met (with actions)

The registered provider does not meet the requirements of the compulsory and or voluntary part/s of the Childcare Register.

To comply with the requirements of the compulsory part of the Childcare Register, the registered person must take the following action/s by the specified date:

- take action as specified in the early years part of the report (safeguarding and promoting children's welfare) 22/11/2008
- take action as specified in the early years part of the report (documentation) 14/10/2008

To comply with the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register, the registered person must take the following action/s by the specified date:

- take action as specified in the early years part of the report (safeguarding and promoting children's welfare) 22/11/2008
- take action as specified in the early years part of the report (documentation) 14/10/2008

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

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action.

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.