

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY303154
Inspection date	18/11/2008
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 2005. She lives in Oxford with her husband, 14 year old son and two adult daughters. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and a first-floor bathroom is also available. The home is unsuitable for wheelchair access as the doors are too narrow. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outdoor play.

The childminder offers care on a daily basis during school hours. She is registered to care for a maximum of six 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 two children who both attend on a part-time basis. She is also registered on the compulsory part of the Childcare Register to care for children in the later years age group, and on the voluntary part of the Childcare Register to care for children aged eight and above. She currently has no older children on roll.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Children enjoy a variety of suitable activities and experiences in a safe and caring environment. The childminder welcomes all families and develops positive partnerships with parents. However, there is a lack of information in writing to illustrate children's progress and the childminder has not yet initiated links with other providers who share the care of minded children. Most documentation is in place, although supporting policies do not clearly reflect childminding practice. The childminder shows a positive approach to reflecting on her practice and to making further improvements.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- explore ways of recording observations of children's progress, linking these to the Early Years Foundation Stage and identifying children's next steps in learning
- update current written policies to ensure they reflect practice and give accurate information to parents
- make links with other providers who share the care of minded children to develop consistency in care and learning.

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

- carry out a full risk assessment for each type of outing (Safeguarding and promoting children's welfare).

02/12/2008

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder demonstrates a sound knowledge of safeguarding children and ensures that all household members have appropriate background checks. She ensures that her home is safe and supervises children closely at all times. Written risk assessments appropriately identify any possible hazards on the premises which helps to reduce the risk of injury to children. However, there are no written risk assessments for outings which is a breach of regulation. The childminder is fully aware of how to keep children safe when away from the home and therefore the impact of this breach on children is minimal. All other regulatory documentation is in place and the childminder is aware to review this regularly to ensure details are correct. The childminder has two written policies in place to support some aspects of her practice but these are written for other agencies and do not clearly reflect her own practice, which limits information to parents. The childminder discusses some aspects of her practice with parents and talks to them daily about their children's welfare and progress to ensure they have a reasonable amount of information. She has not yet established links with other providers who share the care of minded children and does not discuss such care with parents which limits her ability to provide consistent care and learning. The childminder evaluates her own practice, identifying her main strengths and some weaknesses within her provision. She appropriately identifies some areas for development, such as increasing the range of toys and developing records of children's progress. She seeks views from parents who are happy with the care she provides. She shows a positive approach to inclusion, welcoming families from different backgrounds and recognising children's different needs. She has made some progress in meeting recommendations set at the last inspection.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children have opportunities to develop a healthy lifestyle as the childminder provides nutritious food, such as brown bread, cheese, fruit and pasta, and ensures that water is always available. Children begin to learn about the importance of washing hands and how outdoor clothing helps them to stay warm. They have regular opportunities to develop physical skills by playing in the garden or visiting the local park. They enjoy a range of activities which cover the six areas of learning including stories, singing, dressing up, puzzles and art activities, and the childminder shows an understanding of how these activities help children's development. Children begin to learn about positive behaviour as the childminder encourages them to share and includes them equally in activities. She also talks to them about how to play safely, such as not throwing toys around. Children settle quickly on arrival at the childminder's home and become busily engaged in exploring a range of toys which are easily accessible. They enjoy trying to fit puzzle pieces together, playing with a small train set or caring for baby dolls. Children receive close attention from the childminder who interacts frequently to help develop their play and language skills. Children who speak English as an additional language have opportunities to develop their understanding of English through discussion and the use of stories. The childminder liaises with parents to learn key words and phrases in the child's home language to aid communication. Daily discussions with parents

ensure that they are aware of some aspects of their children's progress. However, the childminder has very little written information about children's starting points or their progress towards the early learning goals which limits detailed information for parents, and limits the childminder's ability to track children's progress or identify any gaps in their learning.

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?	3
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	3
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	3

Leadership and management

How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?	3
How effective is the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement?	3
How well does the setting work in partnership with parents and others?	3
How well are children safeguarded?	3

Quality and standards

How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?	3
How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?	3
How well are children helped to stay safe?	3
How well are children helped to be healthy?	3
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	3
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	3
How well are children helped develop skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being?	3

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.