

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY294986
Inspection date	25/09/2008
Inspector	Aileen Ewins
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 2004. She lives with her family in a terraced house in the Cippenham area of Slough; within walking distance of local shops, playgrounds and schools. The whole of the ground floor area is used for childminding; with one bedroom upstairs, used by children in the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The childminder attends local toddler groups on a regular basis. The family have a pet cat and guinea pig.

The childminder is registered to provide care for no more than five children under eight years. She is currently caring for four children in the early years age group, on a full and part time basis; and has no children on roll in the compulsory childcare age range.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The childminder is fully aware of children's individual needs and she addresses these well; which enables children to develop self esteem and confidence. Children are kept safe through many strong practices. The childminder implements policies and procedures which promote a welcoming environment to children and their parents; and which ensures an inclusive practice. The childminder acknowledges the strength of her provision as being the strong relationship she has with parents of the children she cares for. She is aware to continually strive to improve, identifying the need to enable herself more understanding of culture and diversity.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- obtain written permission from parents for specific outings

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

- keep a record of the risk assessment for the premises and each type of outing (Documentation)

01/11/2008

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder has effective procedures in place which promote children's health, safety and well-being. These include policies for sickness, confidentiality, health and safety and emergency situations. Policies are shared with parents, who acknowledge by signature and maintain a copy. The childminder has completed paediatric first aid training. She completes accident and medication records well; and keeps herself up to date with recent guidance in respect to the administration

of medication.

Children are safeguarded by the childminder's knowledge of child protection procedures; and her understanding of the signs and symptoms of abuse. The childminder is aware of the necessary steps to keep herself safe from false allegations.

Children's safety is enhanced through good practice within the home. The childminder checks smoke detectors on a weekly basis to ensure they are in good working order. Cleaning materials are stored away in cupboards fitted with locks, children sit at a suitable low level table with chairs; and a stair gate is fitted to prevent children going upstairs or reaching the front door. The childminder demonstrates care in checking resources and equipment on a daily basis; as well as planning appropriate routes to take when out walking, or the suitability of outings. However, she does not keep a record of these risk assessments and therefore, no historical account is maintained. Children's safety is potentially at risk as possible future hazards cannot be easily identified.

The childminder has acknowledged the good relationships with the parents of the children she cares for as a strength of her provision. Parents are made aware initially of the daily care provided by her. Children's starting points are identified. The childminder maintains comprehensive links with parents through regular contact by text or phone, daily verbal feedback, completion of a daily diary for each child as well as developing children's progress books and photograph albums. Solid practice is also in place to share information for a child who has recently started school. The childminder ensures feedback is exchanged when she collects the child at the end of each day. The childminder has strong links with other childcare providers.

The childminder supports children with enthusiastic care and provides an inclusive practice. She is well aware of children's individual needs. In evaluating her provision, the childminder has made a sound start in identifying improvements to be made; for example by acting on the recommendation made at the last inspection, by practising the fire evacuation. Children are therefore aware of how to leave the home in times of emergency.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children are cared for well. Good procedures are in place to promote children's health. The childminder wears latex gloves for nappy changes and disposes of the soiled nappy immediately, cleaning the changing mat after. Children understand to wash their hands after messy play and before eating snacks/meals. The childminder works with parents to determine when children are ready to be potty trained. Everyday opportunities are provided for fresh air and exercise, through walks to the park, playing outside on climbing frames, trikes and cars, or trips to toddler groups to join in dance and play. Parents are aware to keep children at home if suffering from sickness or a contagious disease. Parental written consents are in place for the childminder to seek medical advice or treatment; so therefore children are kept safe and well during times of medical emergency. Children's snacks and food are

provided by parents, who are aware of healthy eating routines. Mealtimes are sociable occasions, which are enjoyed by the children. Drinking water is easily accessible and freely available. Babies' needs are understood well and babies receive lots of attention and hugs.

The childminder's home is kept clean, tidy and safe for children. The childminder completes a visual check on her home each day; although this is not recorded. Written consents are in place from parents for travelling in the care, observations and routine outings; however, written consents for specific outings have not been sought. Registers detail children's daily attendance, stating arrival and departure times. When out and about the childminder chooses the safest routes for the children, who wear wrist straps or reins when walking along beside her.

Children behave very well. They have high levels of attention and concentration when playing. Children are taught to share and are happy playing together. They form warm relationships with one another. Children have started to become aware of the cultures of others, similarities and differences. Children's economic well-being is enhanced from an early age as children enjoy books and puzzles; are inquisitive in the world around them and have access to age appropriate electrical and battery operated toys.

Children are content and settled in the childminder's care. They have a warm relationship with her; and are happy to sit having cuddles, or to approach her for help. Children easily access and choose the toys and resources they want. These resources are appropriate for the age and development of the children cared for. Children have opportunities to enjoy regular toddler groups and outings to such places as Windsor, Odds Farm and Runnymede. A daily diary is in place which informs parents of children's well-being. Children develop physically, emotionally and socially in the childminder's care. They grow in self esteem as the childminder takes time to help children feel secure, for example, by practising action rhyming songs at home with a child less confident to join in at toddler group.

The childminder has acquainted herself with the six areas of learning and the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Framework. Using information from parents and her own knowledge of children's current stages of development, the childminder has compiled a learning record for each child. Appropriate planning is in place for daily activities which include a mix of outings, play, child and adult initiated activities. Children enjoy books, imaginative play, art and craft activities, visits to the park to feed the ducks, outside play, music and song for example. Children are encouraged to develop as the childminder engages with them, speaking kindly and answering their questions. Children are confident to choose activities indoors such as painting, stampers, drawing and play dough. The childminder uses these times to take observations on children as she encourages their understanding of counting and colours for example. The childminder is developing her own knowledge to use these observations to inform her of planning and activities for the future. Photographs are taken of children's development, with plans in place for each child's parents to have a visual progress book.

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?	Good
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	Good
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?	Good
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?	Good
How well are children safeguarded?	Good

Quality and standards

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

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.