

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY222452
Inspection date	24/11/2008
Inspector	Anne Mitchell
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 2002. The childminder lives with her husband and two children in Boscombe which is within walking distance of local schools and amenities. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The family have two guinea pigs and a rabbit which are housed in the garden.

The childminder is registered to care for a total of six children at any one time. There are currently eight children on roll. She also provides care for children over eight. The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register, as well as the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register.

The childminder takes the children to toddler group and on outings to local places of interest. She is a member of the childminders' network and is a member of the National Childminding Association.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Children's individual needs are effectively met by the childminder who knows them well. Their individual interests and abilities are considered when activities are planned, and consequently children are happy and settled. The childminder demonstrates a commitment to continued improvement through her attendance at ongoing training courses and workshops.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- develop systems to enable parents to contribute to children's records to provide a clear idea of their starting points
- ensure all written observations are accurately dated
- ensure policies are updated to reflect current frameworks and legislation

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder has a strong partnership with parents and carers and they value the care she provides. They are provided with clear information about the provision, which includes the policies and procedures that support the childminder's practice. Daily diaries for younger children inform parents of their children's routines, what they have eaten, and sleeping patterns. Informal discussions also ensures information is shared effectively.

The childminder demonstrates a clear commitment to improving outcomes for children through continued training. She has developed systems to assess her provision, through parent evaluations, talking to children and meetings with her

network co-ordinator. She reviews her written policies and contracts on a regular basis, although some do not reflect current frameworks and legislation.

A detailed risk assessment is completed and this is dated and identifies all areas of potential risk and action taken. The premises are safe and secure and there are good systems followed on outings to keep children safe. The childminder's secure knowledge and understanding of safeguarding children ensures they are well protected from harm and neglect. She has attended training and there is a written policy in place that is shared with parents from the outset.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children are happy and settled in this bright, child orientated environment. A dedicated playroom provides children with a broad range of activities and resources that promote their development. Toy boxes at floor level enable babies and toddlers to become independent in their choices. Children are confident. They talk excitedly about watching the red arrows in the summer and playing with the other children when they visit the childminder.

Children's health is very well supported. Favourite stories, such as 'The Healthy Wolf' are used to teach children about healthy lifestyles. The story introduces healthy eating, dental hygiene and exercise. Children enjoy healthy snacks and use the well resourced garden for physical and imaginative play. Road safety is promoted on local walks and on the journey from pre-school. Children know they must use their ears to listen and stop at the kerb to look for cars.

The childminder plans purposeful play led by children's interests and preferences, to help them learn. Babies physical development is supported and encouraged as the childminder introduces a balloon. This encourages movement and exploration by bouncing it across the room while the child crawls after it. Children behave well. The childminder provides lots of praise and a high level of positive interaction. Children learn right from wrong at an early age. The childminder participates enthusiastically in children's play, promoting their interest and enthusiasm.

Each child has their own development folder. Written observations on all children are illustrated with helpful photos, providing a valuable record of children's achievements and stages of development. Records include how the activity promotes the areas of learning and the next steps for development. However, observations do not always include dates. The childminder exchanges information about children's progress with the local pre-school to provide a consistent approach to their learning. The childminder discusses children's individual needs with parents from the outset, but the information received does not always include children's starting points.

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 the last inspection that required any action to be taken by Ofsted or the provider.

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.