

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY278186
Inspection date	17/02/2009
Inspector	Carol Johnstone
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 lives with her husband and their two children aged seven and nine years in Dorchester, Dorset. Rooms used for childminding purposes are the lounge, dining room, kitchen and conservatory. There are two bedrooms available for use on the first floor. Toilet facilities are available on both levels and there is an enclosed rear garden for outdoor play. The childminder has a pet dog who stays in a separate area when minded children are present. The childminder works with her husband who is also a registered childminder and an assistant. The childminder is registered to care for four children under eight years when working alone and up to 10 children when working with her husband and an assistant. The childminder is also registered on the voluntary and compulsory parts of the Childcare Register. Currently, there are 16 children on roll between the ages of nine months and two-and-a-half-years of age. The childminder holds a National Vocational Qualification at level 4 in childcare. She is chairperson of the local childminding network and is a member of the National Childminding Association. She receives funding for early years education and has a certificate of accreditation. The childminder provides overnight care.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is good. Children are cared for in a relaxed atmosphere and they have very positive relationships with the childminder and her co-workers. Excellent partnership working with every parent supports the children. This ensures that their individual welfare needs are met. The childminder is committed to her personal development and training as a way to continually improve outcomes for children.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- ensure that the paved area in the garden is made safe
- further develop the systems to identify children's next steps in learning in order to ensure their progression during all activities

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder organises her practice very efficiently. Documentation necessary for the care of the children such as emergency contact details, medical conditions and any allergies are carefully recorded and kept close to hand during the day. The suitability of assistants employed is thoroughly checked, with references and police checks being taken up before they start work. A thorough induction procedure is carried out to make sure they understand health and safety issues and the existing policies and procedures. Training opportunities are offered to them whenever they are available as a way to help them develop their practice. The childminder has

strong links with other childminders and pre schools in the area. Consequently, she is able to share details of children's learning and development with other providers who have joint responsibility in caring for the children attending.

The childminder has started her processes to self evaluate the provision she provides as a way to identify areas for development. Recommendations made at the last inspection have been met. As she is an accredited childminder, there are also external processes in place to evaluate her provision such as regular visits and quality checks.

Regular risk assessments of the environment are carried out and these are also completed for outings. Safety measures are in place such as stair gates and cupboard locks. However, parts of the paved area in the garden are cracked and uneven which are a tripping hazard for young children.

The childminder has a sound understanding of safeguarding children issues. She knows the types of abuse, the signs to be aware of and which external agencies to contact for advice. Consequently, she would be able to seek appropriate assistance for a child at risk in the event of a concern being raised.

Partnership with parents is outstanding. Before a child starts, the parent is asked to complete a detailed information sheet about routines, favourite activities, sleep patterns and abilities. This helps children to settle quickly and the routines from home are maintained to provide familiarity. A full booklet of policies and procedures is given to all parents outlining the care provided. Daily diaries give very detailed information about the child's day and parents also participate by providing information back to the childminder. This is in addition to the friendly and informal discussion upon arrival and collection of the children. Regular newsletters also keep parents well informed. The views of parents are continually sought through regular questionnaires which invite feedback and suggestions. These are utilised by the childminder. For example, parents have recently suggested that a weekly menu is given to them of the meals that are planned and this is currently being implemented.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children have excellent opportunities to learn about healthy eating. They grow their own vegetables and then make soup out of them. They are given a variety of organic home cooked meals and can independently choose each day what they want. For example, several children choose pasta and broccoli for their lunch. Another wants pasta and ham. Both choices are given to the children. A wide range of fruit is offered at snack time including bananas, grapes and apples. Children with particular allergies are also included as the childminder purchases specifically appropriate food for them and obtains favourite recipes from home so that they can also enjoy a cooked lunch and dinner. Children are able to choose when they want to go outside and play on the trampoline, slide, bikes and play tunnels. This helps them learn how to climb, wriggle and jump which helps them gain strength and confidence. There are also daily walks to local parks and libraries.

Children are extremely settled and comfortable with the childminder. She supports the activities with warm and stimulating interaction to discuss the books being read or the construction models being made. Children are able to access the resources very easily as all are at floor level and can be immediately seen. Meaningful observations and assessments are being made of the children to record what they can do. However, in some areas, their next steps for learning are not always identified clearly. This can mean some missed opportunities for extending their learning during every activity. Children benefit from being encouraged to be very independent. For example, they make good attempts to put on their coats and shoes for outdoor play. They also know when to go and wash their hands before snack and lunch time.

Children learn to respect each other and behave well. There are golden rules which they are reminded of if necessary and they are encouraged to share their toys. Children play very well together and make firm friendships. They are encouraged to learn about other cultures and religions through playing with resources that reflect diversity and also with celebrations of cultural and religious festivals. Children with additional needs are effectively supported and are welcomed to the provision. The childminder works in conjunction with parents to gain support for children who may need specialised assistance from external agencies. She also adapts the activities to ensure that all children are included in them.

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?	1
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?	1
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
---	-----

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.