

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY371149
Inspection date	12/11/2008
Inspector	Janet Butlin
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 2008. She lives with her husband and two school aged children in a four bedroom house near to the town of Newton Abbot in Devon. The dwelling is accessed by a private drive in a cul-de sac and is close to schools, pre-schools and parks. The children have access to the whole of the childminder's house and to a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and on the voluntary and compulsory part of the Childcare Register. She may care for up to six children under the age of eight years at any one time and there is currently one child enrolled in the early years age range. The family own a pet cat.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Children are very well cared for by the childminder and they are making good progress in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). All systems are in place to support good care, although some require more rigour in their implementation. The childminder ensures that children's individual needs are met and strengthening inclusion by working more closely with parents and other providers is an area she intends to develop. The childminder continually reflects and is proactive in establishing a format for evaluating her practice. Her capacity to maintain continuous improvement is good as she has already begin to implement her plans.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- develop the use of risk assessments, including those for outings, to ensure all hazards are identified, and fix the fire blanket in accordance with the recommendations of the fire officer
- develop ways of working with parents and other providers as partners in planning for children's progress

The leadership and management of the early years provision

Thoughtful self-evaluation has helped the childminder to identify areas for improvement. Although she has not been childminding for very long, she has enthusiastically embraced the requirements of the EYFS and has already begin to improve her practice by establishing helpful systems for planning for children's individual progress.

Parents are made very welcome and are keen to convey, in writing, their satisfaction with the service provided by the childminder. Daily discussions keep them fully informed regarding their child's progress and parents have all viewed the policies that support the childminder's practice. Extending and strengthening the method of communication, and including other settings attended by the

children in her care, is an area the childminder intends to develop in order that all involved are genuine partners in supporting children's progress.

Children are kept safe in the setting as the childminder closely supervises them and helps them to learn how to behave safely and sensibly. They are further protected by her thoughtful approach to the child protection procedure. She has up to date guidance to refer to in the event of having a concern.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children are extremely well settled and happy with the childminder. They are making good progress towards the early learning goals and thoughtful observations help the childminder to plan activities that will help them to progress in all areas. The childminder responds to the unique rhythms of very young children and ensures they are comfortable and content at all times. This means children respond eagerly and engage happily with the activities she provides for them. Their early attempts at words are repeated back to them and the childminder encourages them to communicate with her constantly. They manipulate dough and the childminder talks about size, quantity and whether things will fit. Children respond to this and use terms to do with quantity, for example, asking for half a banana. They develop their muscles as they play on wheeled toys and climb, under supervision, the steps to the upper garden level. The childminder observes the children and references these observations to the areas of learning. She uses this information effectively to set targets for children's progress towards the early learning goals, appropriate to their stages of development.

Children are kept healthy as they enjoy the fresh air every day, whether by going on walks or by playing in the garden. They eat healthy snacks of fruit and the lunches they bring from home are stored in the refrigerator to ensure they remain fresh. Children are well cared for in the event of having an accident as the childminder is qualified in first aid and has obtained all necessary consents. They are kept safe in the home as the childminder supervises them constantly. She has risk assessed her home and any outings undertaken, but not all areas have been identified and recorded. Children are confident in the procedure to be followed in the event of an emergency and the childminder has all necessary equipment to protect the home in the event of a fire. However, the fire blanket is not yet fixed appropriately. Children are polite and well behaved and are learning skills for the future, such as helping to tidy away and respecting the property of others.

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?	3
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?	3
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?	3
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 registration.

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.