

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY299520
Inspection date	07/11/2008
Inspector	Hazel Christine White
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 with her partner and nine year old child in a residential area in Coventry. There are shops and schools within easy walking distance. The whole of the ground floor and upstairs bathroom are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. Children are also taken on local outings to the park and regular attend a childminder group.

The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register to care for a maximum of three children aged five or under at any one time and is currently minding four children within the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), all of whom attend on a part-time basis. The childminder also offers care to children aged over five years and over. This provision is registered by Ofsted on the compulsory and voluntary childcare register.

The childminder has procedures to support children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, and who speak English as an additional language. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The childminder provides a welcoming and stimulating environment for children. She has a secure understanding the new requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). Children enjoy a broad range of activities and challenging experiences, which effectively meets their needs and helps them to make good progress. The childminder recognises the uniqueness of each child and makes sure she promotes inclusive practice for all. Parents provide clear information about their children's individual needs which means that children's safety and welfare are met. She has a positive attitude to improvement and has begun to evaluate her practice to ensure continual improvement for children and their families.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- use observations and assessments to plan for children's next steps in their learning.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder has started to make effective changes to meet all the requirements of the EYFS. She has a good range of policies and procedures in place to safeguard children. For example, she has well written risk assessments and undertakes daily checks of the premises to ensure that any potential hazards have been identified and minimised. The childminder has a secure understanding

of child protection issues and is clear of her role in safeguarding children. This knowledge is underpinned by a written policy which is shared with parents and also includes 'whistle blowing' procedures. All documentation is well organised and regularly updated in order to promote the welfare of children.

The childminder is friendly and approachable. She works closely with parents and carers to ensure children's individual needs are fully met. Good information is gathered from parents about their child before they start so that the childminder knows their individual interests and needs, and this means they settle readily and feel secure. Parents are informed about the activities their children take part in, given good access to their individual developmental records and have opportunities to discuss their progress.

The childminder is beginning to reflect on her practice and demonstrates a clear commitment to continual improvement to develop her provision further. She completed a first aid course as agreed at the last inspection and welcomes the support of the local authority to keep her knowledge and skills updated. She shows a good understanding of self-evaluation and has recorded in depth, the strengths and weaknesses within the service she provides.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children really enjoy their time in the setting and are making sound progress in all areas of their learning. They access an excellent range of activities that are appropriate to their age, ability and understanding. The childminder offers good levels of support and she is skilled in including all children in the activities. This caring and supportive attitude helps them to feel valued and raises their self-esteem. Children are encouraged to follow their interests and the childminder is in the early stages of developing a systematic approach to observing and recording their significant achievements. Although, she knows the children and their current abilities well, this information is not fully used to plan for children's next steps in their learning.

Young children become competent learners as they discover their environment through regular outdoor activities, creative play and frequent opportunities to use their imagination and practise early mark-making. For example, children collect leaves in the park and use them to create pictures. They have made a significant contribution to decorating the house with a Halloween theme, using 'junk' to make ghosts and ghouls. They make shopping lists and take food orders in the 'restaurant'. The childminder interacts with them during their play, making positive use of spontaneous learning opportunities, for example, talking to them about vapour trails in the sky. Children learn to solve problems and recognise numbers in their daily play. They count how many pieces of apple there are at snack time and describe the shape of a pizza. Some resources reflect positive images of people in society. Children are learning to speak basic French and know some British Sign Language. As a result, they are enhancing their knowledge and understanding of the wider world.

Children are sociable and confident with the childminder, her family and with

visitors. They regularly attend a childminding group which encourages them to further develop their social skills. Children's behaviour is good. Boundaries are in place to help children understand what is expected with praise and encouragement given to reinforce good behaviour and significant achievements. They play cooperatively with others and are learning to share and take turns. Children benefit from the good example set by the childminder who is calm, quiet and polite.

Children develop an awareness of safety and learn to be considerate of others. For example, older children know how to come downstairs safely, and that they must look and listen before crossing the road. They are patient with younger children and support them in their play. Children's health and well being is effectively promoted by the childminder. Most children's meals are provided by their parents, but the childminder ensures these are appropriately stored and prepared. Children are well hydrated with regular access to their drinks encouraged throughout the day. The childminder also promotes children's health by ensuring they have daily access to fresh air and exercise. She has steps in place to prevent the spread of infection and takes appropriate action when they are ill.

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.	3

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?	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

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.