

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	224021
Inspection date	22/10/2008
Inspector	Paula Hunt
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 1996. She lives with her three children aged five, eight and 12 years in the upper Stoke area of Coventry. There are shops, schools and a library within easy walking distance. The whole of the ground floor and an upstairs bathroom are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. Children are also taken on outings to local parks or for walks and regularly attend local carer and toddler groups.

The childminder is registered to care for five children at any one time. There are currently three children attending who are within the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) who attend on a full-time basis. The childminder also offers care to children aged over five years to eight years. This provision is registered by Ofsted on the compulsory and voluntary Childcare Registers.

The childminder has procedures to support children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and who speak English as an additional language. She has a recognised Early Years qualification, is a member of the National Childminding Association and is able to take and collect children from local schools and pre-schools. The family have a variety of pets which include guinea pigs, a tortoise, ducks, cats and a dog.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Children are happy, settled and make good progress in their learning. The childminder understands that children learn through play and provides them with good support and exciting learning opportunities. Her secure knowledge of the children in her care enables her to provide a service where individual needs are well met. The childminder has compiled good quality, detailed, written information for parents so they are fully informed of the service. However, systems of effective observation, assessment and planning have not been implemented. The lack of planning and assessment mean that the next steps in the children's learning and a picture of the progress they make, is unclear.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- keep a record of the risk assessment and devise a method to identify and record how aspects of the environment are checked on a regular basis to ensure hazards are kept to a minimum
- develop further the systems for planning activities linked to the early learning goals, assessing children's progress and planning for their individual next steps.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder provides a well-organised and child-focused environment where children develop a high level of confidence and independence in their play and learning. She is suitably qualified to care for children, holding a Level 3 qualification in childcare and a current first aid certificate. The childminder is committed to meeting individual needs and has accessed a good variety of training to support her ongoing professional development. She has begun to formally self-evaluate her practice in order to identify any areas for improvement to the quality of care and learning the children receive. She maintains all relevant paperwork regarding individual children's details and a comprehensive range of policies, procedures and general information which she shares with parents.

Partnership with parents and carers is good, with information regularly exchanged to ensure children's welfare needs are continually met. The childminder enables all children to participate in activities. She achieves this through adapting activities to meet children's specific abilities, helping them to make progress in line with their developmental needs. Good use is made of space to promote the needs of all children and to encourage them to become independent learners. Resources are easily accessible and include positive images of diversity, including gender and promote all areas of learning. Children play out in all weathers and develop their physical skills as they ride on wheeled toys and throw and catch balls in the back garden. Daily visual risk assessments are completed and some effective steps taken to minimise identified hazards. Although, the childminder has yet to complete a record of these risk assessments to fully safeguard children's welfare. The childminder has a good understanding of child protection and has attended training in this area to further her knowledge. All issues raised on the last inspection have been fully addressed.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children's learning is effectively promoted because they enjoy actively participating in a good range of purposeful play experiences, both within the home and in the community. For example, children freely choose their own activities when playing at home, which helps to develop their independence. They also have fun playing with their peers at the local toddler groups. The childminder incorporates the six areas of learning into activities, which are based around each child's particular interests. For example, one of the children likes reading, so the childminder encourages the child to go on walks, reading road and shop signs and door numbers, therefore, helping to develop literacy, reasoning and numeracy skills. The childminder informally plans her day, using a variety of resources to meet individual children's needs. However, because there is limited formal planning, the childminder has no positive way to monitor their progress or move them onto the next steps.

Children's health and well-being is promoted effectively. The childminder takes positive steps toward ensuring all areas of the home are hygienically clean and ensures children with infectious illnesses do not attend. Hand washing is encouraged at the appropriate times to help avoid cross-infection. The childminder has a good understanding of the importance of providing a healthy, balanced diet. Children enjoy snacks of fruit and are involved in growing vegetables in the garden to have at mealtimes. This helps to promote healthy eating and develops children's

awareness of the world around them.

Children's future economic well-being is fostered through a positive relationship with the childminder. Children receive praise and encouragement in their play and enjoy reassuring cuddles. Their behaviour is effectively managed and positive encouragement means they behave well, showing kindness and consideration towards each other. There are suitable methods in place to deal with unacceptable behaviour such as distraction and one-to-one attention. The childminder provides a warm, caring environment, which fosters children's feelings of security and confidence.

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.	Good

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?	Good
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?	Good
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
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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

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted.

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.