

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	223438
Inspection date	01/10/2008
Inspector	Janette Elizabeth Owen
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 a registered childminder since 1992. She lives with her husband who is also a registered childminder in Hereford city. The whole of the property with exception of the cellar is used for childminding. The property has ease of access with toilet and washing facilities located on ground floor. There is a fully enclosed garden to the rear. The family have two cats.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time when working alone and 10 children when working with another childminder and is currently minding five children who are within the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). The childminder also provides care for three children over five years. The childminder takes and collects children from local schools and nursery. The provision is registered by Ofsted on the compulsory and voluntary childcare register.

The childminder supports children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and those who speak English as an additional language. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and is actively involved with the local support group.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The provision is inadequate in meeting all the welfare needs of the children. There are significant weaknesses in promoting the safety of children and ensuring appropriate action is taken in the event of serious accidents.

The childminder has a satisfactory understanding of the learning and development requirements and continues to make improvements to the systems she uses to plan for children's learning and development and to conduct assessments relating to children's progress. The childminder has a positive attitude towards promoting inclusion and works closely in partnership with parents to ensure the needs of all the children are met.

Overall, the early years provision requires significant improvement. The registered person is given a Notice to Improve that sets out actions to be carried out.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

To comply with the requirements of the EYFS the registered person must take the following action by the specified date:

- ensure Ofsted is notified of any serious accident, illness or injury and of the action taken in respect of it as soon as is reasonably practical, but in any event within 14 days 01/10/2008
- ensure written parental permission is requested, at the time of the child's admission to the provision, to the 08/10/2008

seeking of any necessary emergency medical advice or treatment in the future

- ensure furniture, equipment and toys, are safe and suitable for their purpose 01/11/2008
- maintain a record of the risk assessment, date of review and any action taken following a review or incident. 01/11/2008

To improve the early years provision the registered person should:

- develop further teaching methods to ensure effective use is made of questioning to enable children to be active learners and to think critically
- continue to develop planning to take into account the learning needs of all the children cared for
- improve procedure for recording accidents and incidents.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminders lack of understanding of some specific legal requirements of the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage means that children's safety is compromised. Procedures for recording and reporting serious accidents or incidents are not effective. Written parental permission to the seeking of any necessary emergency medical advice or treatment in the future is not obtained, at the time of the child's admission to the provision. The childminder has regard for safety; fits safety equipment where appropriate and makes regular checks on premises, toys and equipment. However, risk assessments are not reviewed following an incident to ensure toys and equipment are safe and suitable for their purpose. Other aspects of children's welfare are promoted well to ensure children are safeguarded. The childminder has a good understanding of child protection and all household members have been vetted to ensure their suitability to work with children.

The premises are generally well organised allowing children sufficient space to play, eat and rest. It is well resourced with developmentally appropriate toys and activities which are used well to support children's play and learning. Children are well settled, the childminder respects their individual care routines and works in partnership with parents to ensure all relevant information is shared enabling the childminder to support the children's development overall. The childminder is experienced and knowledgeable. She continues to update and improve her skills by attending regular training courses and workshops. This contributes to the quality of care the children receive. Systems to support the learning and development requirements are being more fully developed. The childminder uses information from parents and ongoing observations and assessments to plan a range of interesting activities and experiences for the children which enable them to acquire new skills and understanding.

Parents are able to contribute their views both informally, talking with the childminder on a daily basis or more formally by writing to her with their

comments. The childminder has begun to monitor and evaluate her provision but has not yet successfully identified areas for improvement effectively.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children are able to learn about healthy lifestyles because they follow good hygiene routines in relation to personal cleanliness and eat healthy snacks and meals. Activities are used well to reinforce their understanding of healthy eating such as growing vegetables and making soup from the produce. The secure rear garden is directly accessed from the play room and enables children to play outdoors throughout the year. They are able to practice their physical skills such as climbing, using wheeled toys and moving with confidence. Regular outings and visits to toddler groups enable the children to learn about the community in which they live and to socialise with other children. Children are learning about keeping themselves safe, they are involved in practising evacuation procedures and learn about road safety when out and about. An extensive range of activities and toys are easily accessible to the children, they are developing their independence and decision making skills by choosing activities they want to play with and enjoy. They have sufficient space to set up activities such as a model farm or cars or to sit safely at the table while engaging in art and craft activities and table games.

The range of activities and experiences provided cover all areas of learning and help children progress towards the early learning goals. This means that children are able to make sound development overall. They participate in activities which enable them to acquire new skills and develop their existing ones. Children's communication skills are supported through the interaction with each other and the childminder. They enjoy listening to stories such as the "Rainbow fish" and join in using models of fish and shells from the story sack. Although children are extending their vocabulary through conversing with the childminder, questions are not always used effectively to challenge children's understanding or to provide opportunities for them to express their own thought and ideas and become active learners.

Children are helped to develop their self esteem and have respect for other children and possessions. The interaction between the children and the childminder is good. She promotes good behaviour and a caring, sharing attitude by guiding children to use good manners and to play harmoniously. The individual interests and developmental needs of each child are understood. The childminder uses this information to ensure children settle well, have an enjoyable experience in her home. Written plans include specific areas of development for some older children but do not take into account the learning needs of all the children cared for. Parents are able to share in their child's progress because the childminder uses photographs and written comments made from her observations to record how children are developing using the activities and experiences offered.

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?	Inadequate
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	Satisfactory
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	Satisfactory

Leadership and management

How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?	Inadequate
How effective is the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement?	Satisfactory
How well does the setting work in partnership with parents and others?	Good
How well are children safeguarded?	Inadequate

Quality and standards

How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?	Satisfactory
How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?	Inadequate
How well are children helped to stay safe?	Inadequate
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?	Satisfactory

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.