

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	224026
Inspection date	11/11/2008
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).

Children only attend this setting before and/or after the school day and/or during the school holidays. The judgements in this report reflect the quality of early years provision offered to children during those periods.

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 1986. She lives with her husband in the Walsgrave area of the city of Coventry. The whole ground floor of the house and upstairs bathroom are used for childminding. The house is accessible and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

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 two children under five on a part-time basis. She is also registered on the Childcare Register to care for three children from five to eight years and is currently minding two children over five before and after school. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. She attends the local parent/toddler group.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall, the childminder provides a warm and homely setting for children of various ages. She is experienced and caring, ensuring that all children are included and feel secure. Children are happy and well-settled and make satisfactory progress in their learning and development. The childminder is beginning to self-evaluate some aspects of her practice in order to identify strengths and areas for development. Partnerships with parents are generally effective in ensuring all children are included and their individual needs met.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- improve knowledge of the Learning and Development requirements to further promote children's individual progress over all the areas of learning through the use of observations, assessment and planning
- ensure a record of the risk assessment clearly stating when it was carried out, by whom, date of review and any action taken following a review or incident is maintained.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder offers a flexible service which she organises appropriately for the benefit of the children. She works closely with parents to find out all she can about children's individual needs and their daily routines to support consistency of care and adequately meet children's individual needs. She discusses with parents what the children have been doing, their development and progress informally on a daily basis. Positive relationships have also been formed with other childminders in the area. The documentation relating to the care of the children is adequately maintained. Written parental permission regarding emergency medical treatment is in place, the childminder holds a current first aid certificate and both the certificate

of registration and current public liability insurance is available. All accident and medication records are in place and appropriately maintained.

The childminder protects children from harm or neglect as she has a clear understanding of the Local Safeguarding Children Board's policies and procedures. Children play in safety because the childminder supervises them closely at all times and regular visual risk assessments are carried out to identify and reduce potential risks both on and off her premises. However, a system for recording these risk assessments is not maintained. The childminder has attended some recent training courses such as, 'Implementing the EYFS to update her knowledge and skills. She has taken adequate steps to improve and has successfully addressed all recommendations raised at the previous inspection. The childminder has begun to identify strengths and weaknesses of her practice to help her identify areas that require improvement. For example, she is introducing the use of individual observation books to record children's progress and the next steps needed for progression.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The childminder demonstrates a suitable awareness of how individual children develop and learn. She provides them with an appropriate range of play and learning opportunities and children are making steady progress. However, the assessment arrangements and educational programme are mostly informal and do not clearly relate to the six areas of learning and development. The childminder has a very warm and positive relationship with the children and she knows them well. Children's individual routines are followed by the childminder in accordance with parent's wishes with meal and sleep times being accommodated. The children have plenty of space to move freely and enjoy easy access to a satisfactory selection of toys and books which promotes their independence skills. The childminder sings familiar songs to the children and encourages them to share books which contribute to the development of language and literacy. The childminder incorporates simple learning experiences, like counting and colour recognition, into their play. The childminder provides positive support and encouragement to help children achieve, which promotes their confidence and self-esteem.

Children's good health and well-being is effectively promoted whilst in the care of the childminder. For example, children are encouraged to wash their hands after visiting the toilet and hygienic procedures are followed for nappy changing. The childminder follows sound procedures if children have an accident or become unwell whilst in her care. Children eat well, enjoying both the healthy snacks provided by the childminder and the packed lunches provided by their parents. Drinks are available throughout the day and children are prompted regularly to have a drink. Children have regular access to outdoors as they walk to and from school, use small and large equipment at the childminder's home, at toddler groups and local parks. Positive behaviour is encouraged so that children learn what is acceptable, with simple boundaries in place and any incidents quickly resolved. Children generally behave well and are learning to share and take turns.

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?	3
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	3
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?	3
How effective is the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement?	3
How well does the setting work in partnership with parents and others?	3
How well are children safeguarded?	3

Quality and standards

How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?	3
How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?	3
How well are children helped to stay safe?	3
How well are children helped to be healthy?	3
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	3
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
---	-----

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

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.