

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	224342
Inspection date	05/12/2008
Inspector	Karen Eunice Millerchip
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 2001 and is a member of the National Childminding Association (NCMA). Her home is a terraced house in the Stoke area of Coventry, within walking distance of the city centre. She lives with her two children aged 14 and 11 years. There is a dedicated play room, rear lounge, kitchen and first floor bathroom used for childminding. A safely enclosed garden is at the rear of the house. The family has a dog.

The childminder is registered to care for six children in total and cares for six children in the early years group on both full and part-time contracts. Children over eight years are also cared for. The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and on both the voluntary and compulsory parts of the Childcare Register.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The childminder provides a welcoming child-friendly environment where children are well cared for. They take part in an interesting range of activities that support their learning and development well. The childminder recognises the uniqueness of each child and inclusion of all children is fully promoted throughout her practice. The childminder is aware of the strengths and areas for improvement of her provision. She has begun to evaluate her practice to ensure continual improvement and demonstrates a commitment to improving her service for children and families and developing links with other providers. Policies and procedures are shared with parents and they enter into discussions about their child's progress.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- ensure the rear garden gate is made secure
- continue to develop children's assessment records
- develop links with other settings providing for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage, to further support children's learning and development.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder works extremely well in developing partnerships with parents and carers to ensure children's individual needs are fully met. Detailed information is gathered from parents about their child before they start so that the childminder knows children's individual interests and needs, and this means they settle readily and feel secure. Informative written records and daily verbal feedback ensure parents are regularly informed of their child's progress. The childminder actively seeks feedback from parents and children and uses this information along with her developing self-evaluation process to reflect on her practice. She demonstrates an ongoing commitment to continual improvement to develop her provision further.

The childminder has a positive attitude to liaising with other providers delivering the EYFS, however she has not fully developed the system to make closer links with these settings.

The childminder has very well organised and comprehensive documentation which is used effectively in order to promote the welfare of children. A well developed range of policies and procedures are in place to safeguard children; thorough written risk assessments are carried out by the childminder to identify any hazards and she makes sure children understand how to stay safe. The childminder has attended training in child protection and this knowledge is underpinned by a clear policy which is shared with parents. She has a good understanding of her role in safeguarding children and is clear about the procedures to put into practice when necessary and this means children are kept safe from harm.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The childminder has a good understanding of children's individual abilities and interests which enables her to provide enjoyable experiences and activities to support each child's progress. This enables them to make good progress across the areas of learning and development. The childminder has begun to carry out regular observations of the children as they play and these are added to children's individual assessments. Parents contribute to these records to help build on what children know, identify the next steps in their learning and extends learning into the home environment.

The childminder provides an inclusive environment where each child is valued; she consistently praises their efforts, which enhances children's self-esteem and confidence. Children's independence and confidence is promoted because the childminder ensures that toys and resources are organised so that they can make choices about their play. Children play together happily and have developed good relationships with each other; the childminder encourages them to share toys and games and offers positive praise when they behave well. Children enjoy messy activities such as play dough and gluing and sticking. They produce drawings and pictures to represent their ideas which they eagerly take home to share with their parents. The childminder interacts well with children and encourages their thinking through relaxed conversation and questioning. The childminder extends children's development by introducing all areas of learning as they go for walks to the local pre-school and within the community.

The childminder establishes and maintains a safe, comfortable and inclusive environment for all children. The childminder gathers clear information from parents about children's dietary requirements and this ensures children can eat safely. Children's good health is promoted by sensible hygiene routines and young children competently wash their own hands after using the toilet. The childminder is fully aware of her responsibilities to safeguard children. She helps children to gain an awareness of how to keep safe, both in the home and on outings. However, the gate in the rear garden is not secure and potentially impacts on children's well-being. The childminder ensures she can respond appropriately if a

child becomes ill or has an accident and she has completed a relevant first aid course.

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.	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?	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?	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
---	-----

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.