

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	504787
Inspection date	03/11/2008
Inspector	Carol Johnson
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 registered since 1998. She lives in the Coundon area of Coventry with her husband, adult child and another child 13 years. The location is close to local schools, pre-schools, toddler groups and recreational areas. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding. There is fully enclosed rear garden available for play.

A maximum of six children may attend the setting at any one time. The childminder currently cares for a total of nine children and of these; four children are within the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). This provision is registered by Ofsted on the voluntary and compulsory parts of the Childcare Register.

The family has a dog. The childminder holds a recognised Early Years qualification.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Children's welfare and safety is compromised because the childminder has failed to comply with some welfare requirements of the EYFS. The childminder demonstrates a satisfactory capacity to maintain continuous improvement. She informally evaluates her practice and has identified some areas that she wishes to improve; these include refining the current methods that she uses for observing and assessing children's learning and development.

Children are relaxed, happy and confident in the childminder's care. They are cared for within a fully inclusive environment and are making good progress in their learning and development. Important information is gathered from parents and this, together with daily communication enables the childminder to understand and meet each child's personal requirements.

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:

- take action to ensure that all people aged over 16 living or working on the premises are suitably vetted (Suitable People), (also applies to both parts of the Childcare Register) 07/11/2008
- ensure that the daily record of attendance for children is accurately completed (Documentation), (also applies to both parts of the Childcare register). 03/11/2008
- carry out a full risk assessment for each type of outing and ensure it is reviewed before embarking on each specific outing (Safeguarding and Promoting Children's 04/11/2008

Welfare)

To improve the early years provision the registered person should:

- develop a systematic and routine approach to observing children and using assessment to plan the next steps in children's developmental progress.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

Children are inadequately safeguarded because the childminder has failed to ensure that her adult son, who lives at home, has been suitably vetted. Also, records relating to children's hours of attendance are not completed, as and when, children arrive and depart. Daily risk assessments ensure the safety of the premises and equipment. However, children's safety is at risk because outings, including the school run, have not been formally risk assessed and all potential risks or hazards are not fully considered.

Recommendations raised at the last inspection have been suitably addressed and the improvements made have had a positive impact on children. For example, the childminder has increased the range of resources that show positive images of diversity and these have helped children to develop a greater knowledge and understanding of the wider community. Inclusive practice is effectively promoted and the childminder demonstrates a sound understanding of the benefits of working in partnership with parents and others to try and meet children's individual requirements.

Children are cared for by an experienced childminder who demonstrates a caring and committed approach to her role. She has completed a good range of training to help develop and improve her practice and a wide range of clearly written and shared policies are in place. Resources are deployed effectively to enable children to make some independent choices about their play and learning.

Relationships with parents are effectively built and maintained through regular two way communication and important information is exchanged, as appropriate, with other settings that children attend. This means that the childminder can plan experiences that enhance and support children's learning at home and other settings and also ensures consistency of care. Scrapbooks and daily diaries help to keep parents informed about what their children have been doing and notices in the hall and lounge contain additional useful information regarding the childminder's policies and procedures.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The childminder implements a range of measures to help protect children's safety. For example, she ensures that her home is safe and secure and she demonstrates a clear understanding of child protection issues. Children have easy access to a wide variety of safe and developmentally appropriate resources, and older children are taught about the dangers of leaving toys with small parts where they might pose a

choking risk to younger children. They make sure that these are kept out of reach and play with these either at the dining table or when young children are not present.

Children are learning about the benefits of a healthy lifestyle through everyday discussion and practices. They understand why they need to wash their hands before eating and after visiting the toilet. The childminder provides liquid soap and clean hand towels to help prevent the spread of infection. Children are learning to protect their own safety as they practise and regularly discuss road safety. They are aware of behaviour boundaries and the childminder explains the reasons behind these, whilst being firm but fair. Children behave well and show care and concern for others. They are provided with lots of opportunities to socialise with other children and adults and this has resulted in their well developed social skills and good manners. They go on plenty of outings, for example, to local museums, community groups and local parks.

Children are acquiring the skills that help to contribute to their future economic well-being. For example, they practise counting using play money and are encouraged to problem solve and ask questions. Children are gaining an awareness of our wider society because they see posters, books, dolls and jigsaws that reflect diversity and they learn about different festivals through discussion and craft activities. For example, children have recently taken part in a range of craft activities based around Diwali and some have decorated cardboard elephants.

Children are happy and having fun. They enjoy a variety of experiences both indoors and outside and are making good progress in all areas of learning. The childminder dedicates her time to talking, listening and encouraging children in their play. She shows a good awareness of when to intervene in children's play and when it is more beneficial to stand back and let them learn independently. For example, children happily and independently engage in imaginary play, pretending that chairs are seats in a car and under the table is a caravan. The childminder joins in when invited but skilfully allows the play to develop using the children's ideas.

The childminder knows the children well and is aware of their needs, interests and individual preferences. She observes children on a regular basis and uses this information to judge where children are at and where she wishes to move them onto next. Current systems for planning, observation and assessment are still in their infancy and the childminder is keen to develop these methods to ensure that children are encouraged to reach their full potential.

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?	4
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?	4
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?	2
How well are children safeguarded?	4

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?	4
How well are children helped to stay safe?	4
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: Not Met (with actions)

The provider confirms that the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register are: Not Met (with actions)

The registered provider does not meet the requirements of the compulsory and or voluntary part/s of the Childcare Register.

To comply with the requirements of the compulsory part of the Childcare Register, the registered person must take the following action/s by the specified date:

- take action as specified in the early years section of the report (Arrangements for Safeguarding Children) 07/11/2008
- take action as specified in the early years section of the report (Records to be kept) 03/11/2008

To comply with the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register, the registered person must take the following action/s by the specified date:

- take action as specified in the early years section of the report (Arrangements for Safeguarding Children) 07/11/2008
- take action as specified in the early years section of the report (Records to be kept). 03/11/2008

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.