

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY235398
Inspection date	13/10/2008
Inspector	Jasvinder Kaur
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 2001. She lives with her one adult son in Bilston, Wolverhampton. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding. Children have no access to the first floor. There is a fully enclosed rear garden for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to provide care for three children on the Early Years Register and one child on the compulsory part of the Childcare Register. Currently there are three child on roll on the Early Years Register. They attend on a part-time basis.

The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. She attends the local parent and toddler group.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The childminder's provision is satisfactory for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage. She works with parent's to ensure children's individual needs are met. Children are settled and appear to feel secure in the family-oriented environment. Policies and procedures are implemented effectively to promote inclusive practice for those children who attend, taking account of their culture and background. The childminder has some understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of the provision. However, there are areas which need to be improved in the organisation and documentation to meet all children's needs well.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- implement a procedure for keeping records of observation and assessment of children to identify their individual learning priorities and plan their next steps
- organise resources to enable children to have easy access, and ensure that children have daily access to an appropriate range of resources that reflect positive images of culture and disability
- take reasonable steps to minimise hazards to children, with particular reference to the sharp objects in the kitchen and access to the stairs.

To fully meet the specific requirements of the EYFS, the registered person must:

- obtain the required written parental consent including for seeking any necessary emergency medical advice or treatment, taking children on outings and taking their photographs.

14/10/2008

The leadership and management of the early years provision

Children's care and welfare are appropriately endorsed as the childminder continues to update her professional skills by attending training and workshop sessions. For example, she has updated her first aid certificate and attended workshops on the Early Years Foundation Stage, Health and Safety and Safe Guarding Children. Most required policies and procedures, including the complaint procedure and children's records are suitably maintained and readily available for inspection and parents. However, the required written parental consent, including for seeking any necessary emergency medical advice or treatment, taking children's photographs and taking children on outings, is not obtained. This means children's welfare is not safeguarded effectively. Parents are encouraged to share information about their child at admission and on an ongoing basis. Children's care, routines and progress towards the early learning goals are shared with parents verbally on a daily basis. This contributes to parents becoming involved in their children's progress.

Children are protected from harm or neglect as the childminder has a sound understanding of the signs and symptoms of abuse and Local Safeguarding Children's Board's procedures. She has detailed written information about what to do if she has any concerns about a child in her care. The childminder has suitable arrangements to protect children and has undertaken relevant vetting procedures. This ensures they are suitable to have regular contact with children, which further promotes children's safety. The childminder carries out daily safety checks around the area to eliminate risks. However, access to the stairs and to the sharp objects in the kitchen is not prevented. This compromises children's safety. Children are protected from the spread of infection because there is a procedure in place to exclude any with infectious illnesses.

The childminder has implemented appropriate systems to monitor and evaluate the provision and to ensure that improvements are made where necessary. For example, all policies and procedures are under continual review and information is shared with other providers. She has also employed a system of recording children's special dietary requirements and devising and practising emergency escape plan to ensure that most of the recommendations made at the last inspection have been dealt with.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children are provided with satisfactory opportunities to help them make adequate progress across all areas of learning and development. The planning is flexible, responding to the children's interests. However, the childminder has not started to keep a record of assessment and observation of children or their next steps in learning. She gathers information from parents through talking to them frequently. Children are helped to learn how to keep themselves fit, although required parental consent is not obtained to promote their health effectively. Children enjoy a suitable range of both indoor and outdoor physical activities that contribute to a healthy lifestyle. They go for walks in the area daily, regularly play at their local park and

take part in physical play at their pre-school groups. This ensures they understand the benefit of exercise. Children routinely follow good hygiene practices such as washing hands after using the toilet, playing outside and before eating. They learn about nutritious and well balanced snacks and drinks, as a selection of fresh fruits and drinks are readily available throughout the session. Children's packed lunches are stored safely.

Children enjoy listening to stories and younger children respond to the pictures and colours. Sufficient opportunities are provided to develop their creative talents, as they use a range of art and craft material to produce their art work. Children are settled, as they play happily in the secure environment with self-selected toys and games. The childminder interacts with warmth and affection. Consequently, the children feel relaxed sitting on her lap while having a drink or looking at their favourite books. Although there is a good range of toys, books and equipment, these resources are not organised to allow children to have easy access. All toys, books and musical instruments are age and stage appropriate, which means that children can use equipment imaginatively and follow their natural curiosity as learners.

Children are developing an understanding of numbers through a range of different mathematical activities. For example, they sing number nursery rhymes, recognise numerals in books and on toys, and count everyday objects. Their communication and social skills are well developed through group games and regularly visiting their local toddler group and children's centre.

Children are learning to keep themselves safe through practical daily routines and the childminder's guidance. They benefit from childminder's good understanding of emergency escape procedures. Children develop only limited knowledge and understanding of the wider world as the resources that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice are not always available. They had apparently been lent to other childminders. Children are well behaved and play together harmoniously. Clear guidelines provide consistency in regards to behaviour management.

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?	Satisfactory
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?	Satisfactory
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?	Satisfactory
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?	Satisfactory
How well are children helped to stay safe?	Satisfactory
How well are children helped to be healthy?	Inadequate
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	Satisfactory
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	Satisfactory
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.