

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	123954
Inspection date	13/10/2008
Inspector	Susan Parker
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 1989. The childminder lives with her husband and three children aged 16, 12 and 10 years. The family live in Hertford Heath, Hertfordshire. The local school is nearby and there are local playing fields within close walking distance.

The childminder is able to provide care each weekday during term-time and school holidays. She is registered to care for six children in the Early Years Foundation Stage and there are currently nine children attending who are within this age group. The childminder also offers care to children aged five years to eight years. Children occupying these places share the same facilities as the children in the Early Years age range. There are currently no children on roll in this age group.

The premises are accessible by a low step at the front entrance. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder also offers care to children aged five years to eight years. This provision is registered by Ofsted on the early years, compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. Children occupying these places share the same facilities as the children in the Early Years age range. There are currently three children on roll in this age group.

The childminder is beginning to create partnerships with local schools and attends the local toddler group on a regular basis. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall, the childminder caters well for all children in the Early Years Foundation Stage. She provides a safe and stimulating environment, supporting all children to ensure that they are and feel included. All children are able to participate in the activities offered. They are making suitable progress in their learning and development because the childminder's approach to planning meets the individual needs of the children. The childminder is taking some steps to evaluate her practice and through this evaluation she is beginning to develop and improve her practice.

Therefore, she is able to make changes to improve the daily care and experiences for children.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- ensure that the contents of the first aid kit are suitable
- continue to evaluate and assess current practice in order to continue to provide suitable care for children.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder has clear written policies and procedures in place which are organised to ensure that the children are protected. For example, she has completed additional training and updates her written documentation on a regular basis. The childminder has started to evaluate her practice; however, this is not yet effective in enabling her to recognise the strengths and areas for improvement in her provision.

The childminder's appropriate safeguarding policies ensure that children are protected. She has a clear understanding of issues relating to safeguarding children and has the relevant information and contact details for all children. She completes a regular risk assessment of her home and ensures that toys and resources are suitable and safe. However, some of the contents in the first aid kit are out of date.

She regularly discusses the children's development and progress with parents and carers. Photographic evidence is used to share information on activities and achievements with parents. The parents are fully encouraged to share what they know about their children and the childminder encourages parents to be involved in supporting their children's learning and development. For example, currently the childminder and parents are working closely together to form a consistent approach to toilet training. Children's individual development is documented and there are systems in place to monitor and develop their progress. The childminder is beginning to make partnerships with other provisions such as the local pre-schools so that she can liaise with the staff in order to fully support the children's learning.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children are supported by the childminder. She offers a range of inside and outside activities including regular visits to local parent and toddler groups. The childminder provides quality resources in the home which are suitable for children's ages and stages of development. The childminder is aware of where children are in their learning and knows what to offer them in order to promote their development. Therefore, children's individual needs, their next steps and progression towards the early learning goals are met effectively.

The childminder plans some activities for the week ahead including which groups they are going to attend. She also plans activities for older and more able children who attend before and after school. Activities and learning themes are linked with the schools and pre-school groups that the children attend. This supports a holistic approach to learning, and makes effective links. For example, children are reminded to look for the colour or number of the week throughout their games and activities. The childminder supports the children in these activities whilst also encouraging them to try things for themselves, promoting their independence. The childminder ensures that all children are included and offered the same

opportunities regardless of their background. She encourages children to use appropriate behaviour and has house rules in place that children are encouraged to follow. She effectively uses praise to encourage children to be kind to each other and learn right from wrong.

Children's health and welfare are promoted as the childminder takes steps to minimise the spread of infection. They are encouraged to regularly wash their hands and together they talk about germs and being healthy. The children are cared for in a secure environment because the childminder has a suitable understanding of minimising risks. She carries out a regular risk assessment of her home before children arrive and checks the areas used by the children on outings.

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?	Satisfactory

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?	Satisfactory
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
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The provider confirms that the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register are:	Met
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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.