

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	223888
Inspection date	16/10/2008
Inspector	Kathryn Mary Harding
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 1990. She lives with her husband in Whitchurch, North Shropshire. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is an enclosed garden for outside play. Access to the property is gained via one step into the house.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding five children on a part-time basis. The childminder can access local schools to take and collect children. She also offers care to children aged over five years. This provision is registered by Ofsted on the Childcare register. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and she attends the local parent and toddler group. The childminder supports children with learning difficulties and/ or disabilities. The family have a pet dog, two rabbits, a guinea pig and a budgie.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The highly experienced childminder has a good working knowledge of each child and is committed to meeting their individual needs. Children feel comfortable and secure with the childminder because they have built up warm, friendly relationships.

The setting is effectively organised so children can become independent learners. They make good progress in their learning and development. The childminder's practice is inclusive as she takes into account each individual child's interests, likes and dislikes when planning activities. She has a very positive partnership with parents and is developing links with other providers who share the care of particular children.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- conduct a risk assessment of the premises and review it regularly. Carry out a full risk assessment on all type of outings and review the assessment before each type of outing.
- implement a written procedure for dealing with concerns and complaints from parents and keep a written record of complaints and their outcome
- make systematic observations and assessments of each child's achievements and match these observations to the expectations of the early learning goals.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder provides a very warm, welcoming environment for the children in her care and has a good knowledge of how children learn and develop. She is well organised and children benefit greatly from their time spent with her. She holds a

Level 3 qualification in home based child care. The childminder attends regular workshops and training such as a food hygiene course. She supports the children well as she has a developing knowledge of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and is aware of the welfare requirements. However, the childminder recognises that her systems for observations, assessments and planning, are areas for development in order to bring about improvement. The one recommendation that was raised at the last inspection relating to documentation has been successfully met, so demonstrating a commitment to improvement.

Children's welfare is promoted well within the home as suitable safety equipment is fitted and daily visual checks help to ensure that children are cared for in a safe environment. However, there is no written record of any risk assessments of the premises or of any outings undertaken, as required in the EYFS. The childminder is able to protect children from harm or neglect as she has a good understanding of the Local Safeguarding Children Board's procedures and signs and symptoms of child abuse and has attended workshops on this.

Children enjoy continuity of care because the childminder works closely with parents. The childminder discusses children's progress and development with parents when they collect their children and highlights written comments in each child's daily diary. She encourages parents to write in the diary as well to develop a two-way line of communication but as yet the childminder has not developed a complaints procedure but does have the poster on display should a parent wish to contact Ofsted. The childminder has a list of children's achievements that are drawn up with parents and sent to nursery so ensuring good partnership working.

Children who attend other early years providers benefit from continuity of care as the childminder is developing links as she is starting to complete a folder covering the six areas of learning so showing good partnership working.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children enjoy a wide variety of play experiences and activities both indoors and outside and these support their learning and development well. They learn about the importance of exercise and keeping healthy as they have good opportunities for outdoor physical play activities in the large garden area. They enjoy healthy and nutritious meals and snacks which they choose. They know about germs and what nutrients are contained in food items as they explain that apples contain vitamins and seeds. Menus show a range of healthy options on offer. Children learn how to keep themselves safe as they discuss the dangers of running when out walking and not talking to strangers when on public transport.

The whole of the downstairs is used for childminding and space and resources are well organised to enable children to participate in a wide range of stimulating activities. The childminder has no formal written plans of activities but has ideas of what she is going to do with the children. As the childminder has not fully developed her planning, observations and assessments, there are no effective methods implemented to ensure progression towards the early learning goals.

Children are very happy, confident, settled and behave very well. Their understanding of right and wrong is increased as they are given explanations why the behaviour is not acceptable so they are able to understand. They are encouraged to share the toys and resources and reminded how it is good to share. Lots of praise and encouragement is used with the children and they are kind in their interactions with each other as older children help younger children to wash their hands.

Children independently access a vast range of good quality toys and equipment to help them make good progress in all areas of learning. As the children make Krisppie cakes they count how many they need to make and how many more they may need, so encouraging children to solve simple number problems in a practical way. The childminder continually chatters to the children asking open-ended questions so extending the children's learning and helping them to make connections. They talk about what type of gloves the fire-fighter needs and how the helmet protects their head.

Children gain an awareness of the wider world because they see pictures, books and dolls around the home that reflect people from different cultures. They have links with a family living in Africa, so helping children to gain an understanding of the wider world. They are encouraged to explore and investigate as they plant and care for courgettes and runner beans. They become aware of how to care for living things as they stroke the pets and are reminded to be gentle with them. They go on regular local outings to parks and nature reserves, so becoming aware of their environment. They go to a toddler group and a children's gym session where they meet other children so they can learn to socialise. They develop balance and control using a range of wheeled toys that are appropriate for their age and stage of development. They improve their hand-eye coordination using different equipment such as spoons, threading and small balls.

The childminder makes good use of spontaneous learning opportunities and supports children's identification of different colours as they talk about hair colour and the different colours of fruits. The children enjoy listening to the rhymes and songs as they become fire-fighters and pretend to take their baby for a walk.

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?	Good
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	Good
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	Good

Leadership and management

How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?	Good
How effective is the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement?	Good
How well does the setting work in partnership with parents and others?	Good
How well are children safeguarded?	Good

Quality and standards

How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?	Good
How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?	Good
How well are children helped to stay safe?	Good
How well are children helped to be healthy?	Good
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	Good
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	Good
How well are children helped develop skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being?	Good

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 that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the requirements of the Early Years Register.

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.