

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	224237
Inspection date	09/12/2008
Inspector	Paula Hunt
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 1992. She lives with her husband and adult daughter in the Wyken district of Coventry. The whole ground floor of the house is used for childminding with bathroom facilities on the first floor.

The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register to care for a maximum of three children aged five or under at any one time and is currently minding three children under five on a part-time basis. She is also registered on the Childcare Register to care for three children from five to eight years and is currently minding four children over five before and after school. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. She regularly networks with other childminders in her area and attends the local toddler group. The family have two cats and some fish.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The childminder provides a warm, homely setting for children of various ages. All children are welcomed into the setting and positive relationships with their parents ensure information is exchanged and helps to meet their individual needs. However, the childminder has an insecure knowledge and understanding of the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) which limits children's learning, development and welfare. Additionally, a lack of self-evaluation means that she is not fully aware of areas for improvement and the recommendation from the previous inspection has not been effectively addressed.

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:

- ensure that children's individual learning and development needs are planned for, observed and assessed in line with the Early Years Foundation Stage and linked to the early learning goals (Assessment arrangements) 09/01/2009
- maintain a record of risk assessments, clearly stating when they were carried out, date of review and any action taken following a review or incident (Suitable premises, environment and equipment) 09/01/2009
- ensure that all records relating to childminding activities are readily accessible and available for inspection at all times (Documentation) 09/01/2009
- make available to parents a written statement that 09/01/2009

provides details of the procedure to be followed if they have a complaint and devise a system for recording any complaints made (Safeguarding and welfare)

- obtain information about who has parental responsibility for each child and who has legal contact with each child (Safeguarding and welfare) 09/01/2009
- request written parental permission to the seeking of any necessary emergency medical advice or treatment in the future (Safeguarding and welfare) 09/01/2009
- ensure the premises and equipment are organised in a way that meets the needs of the children (Suitable premises, environment and equipment). 09/01/2009

To improve the early years provision the registered person should:

- evaluate practice more thoroughly to identify areas for improvement and ensure children follow a balanced activity programme covering all areas of the curriculum
- improve understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage to help children progress with their learning and development
- obtain written parental permission for all children to take part in outings and to transport children in a vehicle
- ensure children are provided with healthy meals and snacks
- ensure smoke alarms are provided at every level of the house
- develop the use of self-evaluation to identify strengths and priorities for improvement.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder has many years experience of caring for children but has a limited knowledge and understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage. She has not developed any procedures for effective self-evaluation to monitor and evaluate her service; this does not promote outcomes for children. In addition, she has not addressed the recommendation from her previous inspection. The childminder is aware of her responsibility in the area of child protection and she keeps reference materials accessible to enable her to act on any concerns for a child's welfare. She ensures her premises are secure, that children are supervised at all times and that they do not have unsupervised contact with persons who have not been vetted. Children are supported in learning to keep safe because the childminder keeps the premises safe and secure; the childminder reminds children to be careful such as when getting on the chair. Although the childminder has an adequate understanding of keeping children safe, she has not conducted or recorded risk assessments to clearly show how hazards to children are kept to a minimum. For example, smoke alarms are not fitted at every level of the house which potentially compromises children's safety.

The childminder maintains some of the basic range of required paperwork that she stores securely and retains for the appropriate time-scales. However, some of the

documentation was not available at the inspection, the times of arrival and departure of the children are not recorded in the register, some contracts have not been fully completed and written consents such as those for emergency medical treatment have not been obtained. Furthermore, information about who has parental responsibility for the children and legal contact with them has not been sought all of which potentially compromising children's health and well-being. The childminder has developed positive partnerships with the parents. Parents' views about their children's needs are sought before the child starts and they are kept verbally informed about their child's day and activities to ensure continuity of care. However, the childminder has not yet developed systems to record any concerns or complaints that may arise in the future. Children's individual routines are followed by the childminder in accordance with parents' wishes with meal and sleep times being accommodated. Positive links have also been formed with other childminders in the area.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children do not make adequate progress in their learning and development in line with the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage framework but do enjoy their time in the setting. They are provided with some activities and resources that support their learning. The premises and equipment are not organised in a way that meets the needs of the children. Although, they use the limited free space adequately playing on the floor and sitting at the table for meals or creative activities. They have some independent access to a range of resources suitable for their ages and stages which are set out for them and older children understand the range of items stored in the cupboard. Planning is informal and does not include information about specific aims or challenges for individual needs. Documentation to support learning and development is limited, for example, there is no written record of children's progress to help plan for their next steps and no link to the areas of learning to ensure children cover all aspects of the curriculum. Children's speech and language is developing through the childminder discussing what they are doing and offering encouragement to achieve. They are settled and mostly enjoy their time with the childminder.

Children's health and well-being is adequately promoted, for example, children are encouraged to wash their hands after visiting the toilet and hygienic procedures are followed for nappy changing. The childminder follows appropriate procedures if children have an accident or become unwell whilst in her care. Children join in the school run and have opportunities to visit local parks take in fresh air and develop their physical skills. The childminder knows the individual needs of the children with regard to their diet and health. Children receive regular drinks, snacks and meals throughout the day, although, are insufficiently provided with nutritious choices to promote healthy eating. They are calm and have a positive attachment to the childminder, who offers them praise and encouragement, so they learn about expected behaviour.

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?	3
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	4

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?	4
How well does the setting work in partnership with parents and others?	3
How well are children safeguarded?	4

Quality and standards

How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?	4
How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?	3
How well are children helped to stay safe?	3
How well are children helped to be healthy?	3
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	4
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	3
How well are children helped develop skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being?	4

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.