

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY219811
Inspection date	14/10/2008
Inspector	Hayley Lapworth
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 2002. She lives with her husband and two children aged eight and 10 years in the Walsgrave area of Coventry. All of the ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding along with the upstairs front box room and large back bedroom. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The childminder is registered to care for six children under eight years and is currently caring for four children under eight years. She holds a recognised early years qualification. The childminder is registered under the Early Years, compulsory and voluntary Childcare Registers.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The childminder provides good quality care and education for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). The welfare and safety of the children is enhanced as most potential hazards have been minimised. The relationships the childminder has built with the children and the close links she has developed with their parents enables her to meet children's individual needs well. Children are happy in the stimulating environment and are making good progress. She creates a welcoming, child-friendly environment where children make choices for themselves and access a good variety of activities. She is qualified and experienced in caring for children and shows some commitment to developing and improving the service she provides.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- devise and implement strategies to look at the setting's strengths and weaknesses in order to maintain continuous improvement
- expand risk assessments to include gas appliances
- ensure that Ofsted are notified of all significant events.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder's knowledge and understanding of safeguarding procedures ensures that children are appropriately protected. For example, she regularly attends training and displays information regarding Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures. There is some capacity for continuous improvement as self-evaluation and monitoring systems are in the process of being devised. The childminder shows suitable commitment to developing and improving practice. For example, she has undertaken an appropriate early years qualification and formally asks parents to share their thoughts with her about the service she provides. Risk assessments are conducted, however, the safety of gas appliances is not considered and the childminder does not always ensure that Ofsted is notified of any significant events. For example, changes to the premises.

The childminder demonstrates a competent understanding of how children learn through making choices for themselves and being involved in first-hand experiences. Space and resources within the home are organised well to ensure children acquire skills in becoming independent learners. This is best demonstrated by the way they access resources and play from low-level storage. Planning is flexible to encourage children to lead and develop their own play experiences. Activities inside the home offer a good variety of play and children also benefit from regular trips to local groups where they spend time with children of a similar age. Planning is flexible to encourage children to lead and develop their own play experiences and assessments of children's learning identify their next steps.

Records are clear and well maintained. They include all the necessary information and there is an accurate daily attendance register of children and visitors to the premises. The childminder has developed a portfolio and displays information for parents detailing activities provided and the settings policies and procedures which underpin her practice. For example, the fire evacuation procedure and activities children are likely to be involved in. This ensures parents are well informed. Children and parents benefit further as a two-way communication system is in place through the use of a daily diary for each child. This ensures that children's individual changing needs are known and that parents are informed of their children's learning. A secure commitment is shown to inclusive practice and she is competent in including each child in the activities according to their particular age and stage of development. The childminder demonstrates how children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, and who speak English as an additional language are supported.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children are provided with a good range of opportunities to help them make progress across all areas of learning and development. The childminder records her observations of the children's learning and identifies next steps in their learning, then uses this information to inform her planning. The childminder consistently offers children support in their planning and acts upon opportunities to enhance their learning. For example, when the children eat something sweet she talks to them about the sugar content in foods and how they should brush their teeth to make them 'nice and shiny'. Children clearly enjoy their time with the childminder and benefit from her caring approach which helps them to feel valued and raises their self-esteem.

They learn about healthy eating and access fruit on a daily basis. Snack and meal times are a social occasion where they sit together. Children's welfare is protected because the childminder has a good knowledge and understanding of child protection.

Communication language and literacy is strong within the setting. The children are confident with the childminder and the assistant, they regularly chat with them about what they are doing and involve them in their play. The children play harmoniously together and are learning to share and take turns. This is because the childminder encourages them to work together. For example, during a session of

role play she suggested one child should wash the dishes then pass to the next child to dry, praising the both on doing a 'good job'.

Behaviour is good. Children benefit from the good example set by the childminder who is calm and polite in her approach towards them. Children learn to solve problems and recognise numbers in their daily play. For example, they sit together with play dough and cut out shapes of numbers, talking about the number and using the number in counting sequences.

The childminder generally creates a safe and welcoming environment and children are learning how to keep themselves safe. For example, they are involved in practising the fire drill and demonstrate their understanding in their play of the role of a fire fighter. However, at present no arrangements are in place to support the safety of gas appliances. Consequently children are potentially at risk of harm.

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.	Satisfactory

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?	Satisfactory
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
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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

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.