

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	223474
Inspection date	15/12/2008
Inspector	Janette Elizabeth Owen
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 two adult children in Hereford city. The whole of the ground floor of property is used for childminding and there is a secure area for outside play. Access to the property is via one small step, there are toilet facilities on the ground floor.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding four children who are within the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). The childminder also provides care for children over five years. The childminder collects children from local schools. The provision is registered by Ofsted on the Early Year Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Children are making satisfactory progress in their learning and development. Most procedures are in place to ensure children's welfare is promoted effectively. The childminder has a good relationship with parents which enable her to be supportive and provide a consistent level of care to the children. The childminder uses information provided by parents to ensure she is able to meet the individual needs of the children. The childminder has evaluated some aspects of her practice and identified areas for improvement, these particularly refer to improving systems to support children's learning and development.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- develop effective practice by using the information on Learning and Development to support continuous observational assessment to inform a view of where each child is in their learning, where they need to go, and the most effective practice to support them in getting there.

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

- obtain prior written permission for each and every medicine from parents before any medication is given (Promoting good health) (also applies to both parts of the Childcare Register).

22/12/2008

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder is qualified and has many years experienced, she continues to update her knowledge through training, this contributes to the quality of care children receive. The day-to-day management of the childminding is generally good, children are cared for in a homely environment where they are safe and secure, and children's good health is managed generally well. Most of the required records and documentation is in place and used effectively to ensure children's welfare is protected with the exception of medication records which are not maintained efficiently.

The partnerships with parents are well established and ensure children's needs are met. There is a good two-way flow of information, knowledge and expertise between childminder and parents in relation to children's care needs. This ensures that a consistent level of care is provided. Written materials and "parent pack" keeps them informed of policies and procedures, and specific information such as a SureStart leaflet on toddler groups specifically for fathers enables parents to be involved in their child's development. The childminder uses her experience of child care when offering advice to parents such as in relation to behaviour management and healthy eating. The childminder is well thought of and her experience and knowledge respected.

Children are provided with access to a varied range of toys and activities which they enjoy playing with; they are regularly taken on visits and outings. The childminder is developing her practice to make more effective use of the activities and learning opportunities to help children progress towards the early learning goals. She has yet to put fully into place systems to enable her to make connections with what children are achieving and how she intends to plan for individual learning needs, taking into account the interests of each child and the support they need. Parents are provided with a photographic record of the activities their children are involved in and daily chats, and written information in a daily diary keeps them up-to-date with developmental and routine information.

The childminder takes positive steps to safeguard children. She has a sound understanding of child protection procedures and follows Local Safeguarding Children Board guidelines. The actions taken to manage and eliminate risks to children are satisfactory. The premises are safe and secure, and maintained to a good standard. Risk assessments are carried out and documented, enabling the childminder to monitor aspects of safety inside and outside the home.

Future plans are limited but are likely to bring about improvement particularly in relation to learning and development. The childminder has plans to improve outcomes for children by introducing more robust planning and observation arrangements which will enable her to more fully support children's individualised learning. Recommendations made at the previous inspection have been addressed through training.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children settle well into the home of the childminder and enjoy their time with her and her family. The childminder takes time to get to know each child and follows parents wishes in relation to their child's care routines. This means that children are confident, secure and happy. The childminder ensures that a varied range of activities are available which are appropriate for the age and stage of development of each child and are used to promote children's communication, language and literacy and numeracy.

Songs, rhymes and stories are a regular part of the days activities; children enjoy listening to stories and choose books they enjoy looking at. They join in with songs or music sessions which is used to help them develop their understanding of sounds and words as well as being physically active. Construction activities such as stickle bricks are a favourite. Children begin to recognise colours and shapes as they fit the bricks together and make models. The childminder joins in with children's play, encouraging children to join in and using conversations to help children improve their communication skills. They are able to go on visits and outings which help children to socialise and learn about the community in which they live. Activities and resources are used in play to help children learn about similarities and differences in people and how they live.

Children are becoming increasingly independent, able to make choices for themselves and manage their own self-care such as feeding themselves or managing the toilet when developmentally ready. They are taught how to keep themselves safe when out and about because the childminder talks to them about road safety and they are also involved in practising the evacuation drill. The children play together, sharing toys. The childminder supervises the children well and is on hand to give gentle reminder about being kind and playing together. This helps children learn positive rules for behaviour.

The childminder uses her knowledge of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) when providing suitable activities and learning experiences for the children which they will find enjoyable. Although the range of activities is varied and covers all areas of learning, the processes to plan activities and observe children are not fully formed. Parents are not sufficiently involved in children's learning and development in that children's starting points are not discussed and agreed with their parents.

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?	3
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	3
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	3

Leadership and management

How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?	3
How effective is the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement?	3
How well does the setting work in partnership with parents and others?	2
How well are children safeguarded?	3

Quality and standards

How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?	3
How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?	3
How well are children helped to stay safe?	2
How well are children helped to be healthy?	3
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	2
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?	3

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:

Not Met (with actions)

The provider confirms that the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register are:

Not Met (with actions)

The registered provider does not meet the requirements of the compulsory and or voluntary part/s of the Childcare Register.

To comply with the requirements of the compulsory part of the Childcare Register, the registered person must take the following action/s by the specified date:

- take action as specified in the early years section of the report (Records to be kept). 22/12/2008

To comply with the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register, the registered person must take the following action/s by the specified date:

- take action as specified in the early years section of the report (Records to be kept). 22/12/2008

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.