

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	223383
Inspection date	17/11/2008
Inspector	Deborah Ball
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 1991. She lives with her husband and two grown up children on the outskirts of the city of Hereford. The ground floor of the property is used for childminding. Access to the childminder's home is by way of a small step leading to the front door. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The childminder is able to take and collect children from local schools and pre-schools.

The childminder is registered to care for four children at any one time. There are currently two children attending who are within the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), both of whom attend on a part-time basis. The childminder also offers care to children aged over five years. This provision is registered by Ofsted on the compulsory part of the Childcare register. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The childminder takes time to develop warm, caring relationships with the children in her care. All children are extremely happy and benefit from high levels of attention and interaction from the childminder. A wide range of activities, most of which are informed by observations of children's progress, are thoughtfully prepared to encourage children to develop new skills, knowledge and have fun. The childminder provides a fully inclusive environment and works collaboratively with parents and other professionals to fully meet children's individual needs. Documentation is well-maintained and written policies provide parents with information about the safe and interesting environment. The childminder regularly evaluates and monitors the quality of her care and has a positive attitude towards continuous improvement.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- develop a systematic and routine approach to observing children and use assessment to plan the next steps in children's developmental progress.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

Children benefit from the childminder's knowledge of childcare, her experience and ongoing commitment to developing and enhancing her practice through attending further training. The childminder shows a strong commitment to meeting the requirements of the EYFS and has started to reflect on and evaluate her own practices, in order to assess and improve the outcomes for children. Since the last inspection the childminder has addressed the recommendation issued and as a result children are beginning to develop an understanding of the wider world.

Children's risk of accidental injury is minimised because the childminder has a good understanding of health and safety. Detailed and effective risk assessments have been carried out on the indoor and outdoor environments, outings and resources and as a result children are cared for in a safe and secure environment. Children are also able to independently select activities from a wide range of good quality toys and equipment which are well maintained. The childminder has a professional knowledge of her responsibilities in safeguarding children and is fully aware of the procedures to follow should a concern arise.

Good relationships have been formed between the childminder and parents and a number of letters illustrate that parent's value the high levels of care their children receive. A comprehensive range of written policies and procedures are effectively implemented and shared with parents to fully promote children's safety and well-being. A daily diary system is used as an effective method to share information regarding their child's day and parents are kept up-to-date with their children's progress as the childminder shares the observations she records in each child's file. The childminder works closely with a local childminder and arrangements are in place to work in partnership with other settings who deliver the EYFS to ensure that children are provided with appropriate levels of support.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children thrive in the childminder's caring environment and are progressing well in their learning and development. There is an appropriate balance of adult-led and child-initiated activities and consequently the children are suitably challenged and have some independence and control over their learning. Toys and resources are age-appropriate and available at low-level so that children can access their favourite resources as and when they wish to. The childminder has effective systems for observing children and assessing their progress. However, this information is not effectively used to help plan appropriate activities to ensure children are given every opportunity to move on to the next stages in their development.

Children participate in a wide range of fun and practical activities. For example, younger children enjoy listening to stories whilst cuddling up to the childminder, using their fingers and hands to create colourful pictures and recently made biscuits for Halloween. Older children also enjoy learning new skills including cooking, playing traditional games such as Jenga, building models with construction toys and junk modelling. All children relish using a wide range of age-appropriate play equipment to develop their physical skills in the garden. Children gain knowledge of their own surroundings as they walk to the local park where they are able to feed the ducks and use the large play equipment. The childminder supports all the children in a capable, calm and caring manner, offering direction where required whilst encouraging a respectful and friendly environment.

Children benefit from a healthy environment where good hygiene is maintained and young children's daily routines are handled sensitively. For example, the childminder talks to toddlers during nappy changing, making eye contact and

singing to them so that close and positive relationships are developed. The childminder takes account of children's dietary preferences and provides them with a variety of healthy and nutritious snacks and packed lunches are provided by parents.

The childminder ensures a broad range of activities are available to promote equality of opportunity so that she can encourage the children to become aware of the wider world. In addition, the close partnership with parents ensures that children's individual needs and routines are accommodated appropriately within the homely, relaxed and calm childminding space.

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?	2
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	2
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	2

Leadership and management

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

Quality and standards

How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?	2
How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?	2
How well are children helped to stay safe?	2
How well are children helped to be healthy?	2
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	2
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	2
How well are children helped develop skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being?	2

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

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.