

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	307373
Inspection date	05/11/2008
Inspector	Julie Firth
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 1998. She lives with her husband who is a registered assistant, one child aged 15 and an adult son.

The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding which includes the lounge, kitchen/dining area. The small front bedroom is used as a play room on the first floor. There is a rear garden available for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to provide care for a maximum of six children at any one time. The childminder offers occasional overnight care for two children under eight years. She is registered on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. There are currently 5 children on roll. Of these, one child is under five years and two children are aged between five and eight years. The childminder has established links with other early years settings which minded children attend and that also provide the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) framework. The childminder is member of the National Childminding Association.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The childminder effectively promotes children's welfare and learning and she provides a safe and very good inclusive environment. The children are happily engaged and occupied in a broad range of stimulating play activities and experiences. There is a good working relationship with parents and they are kept well informed of their children's daily routines, care and learning. The childminder has recently introduced effective systems in relation to self evaluation and is using it to develop her planning and practice. Children's progress is monitored but assessments are not fully developed.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- continue to develop planning and use assessments effectively to monitor children's progress.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder is very committed and enthusiastic, they continually strive to improve the service they provide. She attends a lot of training to further her knowledge and develop her childcare practices. A structured daily routine promotes children's welfare and meets their needs. On going planning ensures that children progress throughout all areas of learning.

The childminder's home is organised to give the children lots of opportunities to

become independent. All required documentation is in place and written policies and procedures work very well in practice to positively promote children's health, safety, enjoyment, achievement and ability to make a positive contribution.

The childminder is committed to ensuring that the service she provides is fully inclusive and she makes parents and their children feel welcome. Copies of the policies are given to and discussed with parents at the introduction meeting, helping to promote good working relationships and a shared understanding from an early stage. Parents are given information about their children's care and are asked to contribute to activities that their children participate in. She also asks them for views and comments helping her to monitor the service she provides. Links are beginning to become established with other providers to ensure progression, continuity of care and education.

The childminder has a secure understanding of how to protect children and procedures in place, this ensures children's welfare is effectively safeguarded. The childminder recognises the importance of continuous improvement and is beginning to identify the strengths and weakness of her setting as she implements a self-evaluation process.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The childminder has a good understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage and she plans and provides a range of stimulating activities for the children. This helps them make progress across all areas of learning and development. The childminder works well with parents to gather information about their children's starting points. She observes children at play and plans activities around their interests, such as after children speak about pirates, research and activities are planned around this. Planning is also based around the six areas of learning. However, assessments are in the early stages and not fully developed to indicate children's next steps of learning or progress. The childminder has started to take photographs to illustrate the children's enjoyment and having fun whilst in her care.

The childminder provides a fully inclusive environment for the children and their families, encouraging them into a homely friendly environment. Resources are attractively stored in low level cupboards and crates and promote all aspects of children's learning. Furthermore, they give children a very good awareness of diversity. The childminder dedicates time playing and talking to the children developing warm relationships with them. She knows the children well and is able to meet their individual needs. As a result, the children are happy and eager to learn.

The children develop good self help skills as they help to tidy up and access equipment around all areas of the home. They show an interest in the local environment as they look at farm animals and visit the park to collect conkers and leaves. This is extended as the children paint leaves in Autumn colours. They develop an awareness of problem solving and reasoning as the childminder introduces concepts of number and shapes into rhymes and every day activities. They use language well from an early age to explain what they are doing and to ask questions. Children enjoy reading with the childminder and uses different sounds to

promote their language. The childminder encourages imaginative play as children become involved in role play, small world and dress up. They have lots of fun and sing songs as they play.

Great emphasis is put on creative activities. Children enjoy creating pictures of fireworks and carve a pumpkin. They jump in shredded paper and roll out play dough. Children can freely paint at all times in the childminder's home and show great delight when they can bring their picture home. Water play is available outside and the childminder asks the parents to bring Wellingtons for them children to enable them to splash in the puddles. The childminder ensures that children's physical development is promoted. Children have fun playing in the garden and develop control and coordination as they have access to a large amount of outdoor equipment. They have opportunities to balance and climb using the fixed equipment.

The childminder implements strategies to promote all children's social, physical and economic well-being. The children learn about hygiene practices and personal care routines as they wash their hands at appropriate times of the day. The childminder ensures that children understand the importance of cleaning their teeth and incorporates activities around this. Children are well nourished and develop an awareness of healthy eating because the childminder provides a menu that is well balanced and nutritious to aid their growth and development. They enjoy sitting down together to eat home made hot food. The childminder's home is safe and secure. It is well equipped with furniture and resources and provides an enabling environment where children can thrive. Full detailed risk assessments are in place for outings and the premises. The childminder and her family act as positive role models to the children and they receive a clear message about what is expected of them. The children are polite and behave well. They become aware of sharing and taking turns from an early age. The childminder works extremely hard to meet children's individual needs allowing them to have one to one support and works very closely with parents for continuity of practice. She offers overnight care to meet parents individual circumstances.

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?	Outstanding
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.

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.