

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY357610
Inspection date	04/12/2008
Inspector	Joanna Scott
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 2007. She is one of two childminders and four assistants employed by another childminder who provide childcare on domestic premises and childminding services. They provide care from two addresses in the Walton-on-Thames area. Members of the lead childminder's family live at both these premises. The childminder does not work from her own home. At address A care is provided in the play room and conservatory, with toilet and kitchen facilities on the ground floor, and sleeping in one of two bedrooms on the first floor. There is a secure garden available for outside play. Children cared for at this address are in the early years age range. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children when working on her own, and eight minded children when working with others. There are currently 22 children under five on roll, all but two of whom attend on a part-time basis. At address B care is provided from the sitting room, conservatory and kitchen-diner. Children cared for at this address are aged from three to eight years. The childminder was not working from this address at the time of her inspection. The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and both the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The children play in a warm and welcoming environment, and the childminder helps each child to feel settled and included. She does not yet have a secure understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), although her arrangements for planning the children's daily play opportunities mean they make satisfactory progress in their learning. Some systems for self-evaluation are in place, but these are not sufficiently developed to enable her to drive continuous improvement in all areas.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- further develop the existing systems used for evaluation to better identify strengths and weaknesses, and drive forward continuous improvement with particular regard for ensuring policies and procedures and documentation are updated
- ensure any risk assessment takes full account of unauthorised access into the garden from the front gate
- update knowledge and understanding of the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage and implement it fully in the planning and assessment systems to improve children's progress, and share these records with parents

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

- attend the compulsory childminding training course, book to attend as soon as possible, and notify Ofsted

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that this has been arranged within two weeks
(Suitable Person) (also applies to both parts of the
Childcare Register)

- provide evidence that a suitable and up to date
paediatric first aid certificate is held (Suitable Person)

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The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder works as part of a team of three childminders and four assistants who care for minded children. The lead childminder takes overall responsibility for all aspects of the provision, and this childminder supports her. This childminder takes a specific lead in the planning of art and craft activities, and displaying the children's art work to make the environment welcoming.

The areas of the house used for childminding at the inspection were prepared well, and enabled children to move safely and make choices about the toys and resources they accessed. Written risk assessments of the home, car, and garden are completed weekly which means that generally risks are minimised. However, the garden gate is not additionally secured to prevent unauthorised access from the front of the property. Documentation is maintained and stored confidentially. There are a set of detailed written policies and procedures which are shared with parents, however not all are up to date such as the complaints procedure. Information is shared with parents when children first start, to ensure that their individual needs can be met and their starting points discussed.

The childminder has not completed the compulsory initial training course, and was not able to provide a certificate for the first aid training. This is a breach of requirements. However, she is currently doing a level 3 early years qualification which is beneficial to developing her skills and knowledge. The childminder has sought written feedback from parents in relation to the service she provides, and has given consideration to evaluation. However, this has not accurately identified the main strengths and weaknesses of the provision and therefore has limited effect on driving improvement. The childminder has not been proactive in seeking information or developing her understanding of the EYFS.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The children are happy and confident. They enjoy warm relationships with the childminder and like to sit on her lap and share cuddles. They experience a mix of activities in and out of the home. The children sit with the childminder listening to rhyming stories, calling out the familiar responses. They join in with her singing 'Rudolf the Red Nosed Reindeer'. The childminder encourages and rewards the children for joining in by giving out stickers which they enjoy wearing. They enjoy trips in the local community such as visiting the library to select books for topic work, and they visit a soft play centre where they practise their physical skills, balance and co-ordination. The childminder thinks about what activities she will provide, taking into account the early learning goals. For examples she uses bricks

to help children think about numbers and counting. Children enjoy dancing and dressing up and being imaginative. However, current systems used to record children's development are not carried out on a regular basis, and do not always identify the detail of their achievements or what their next steps are.

The childminder supervises the children very well, and moves with them as they play in the sitting room and conservatory. Sleeping babies are checked on a regular basis to ensure they are settled and well. Children sometimes practise evacuation, but not regularly enough to help young children to learn to be confident and leave the premises quickly and safely. The children behave well. They are interested in the play opportunities provided, and are supported by the childminder. She uses distraction well with younger children. The childminder sometimes uses time out with the children, and shares information with parents about behaviour verbally and through the written daily sheets she provides which outline the children's day. The children are developing their independence, they make choices about what they play with from a selection of toys stored at low level, and they start to recognise their own needs as they can access their own cups and drink when thirsty.

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?	3
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?	3
How well are children helped to be healthy?	3
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	3
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 in relation to attending compulsory childminding training course 19/12/2008

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 in relation to attending compulsory childminding training course 19/12/2008

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 registration.

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.