

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	110771
Inspection date	10/12/2008
Inspector	Catherine Hill

Type of setting	Childminder
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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 has been registered since 1997. She lives with her husband and three children, aged 13, 11 and nine years. The family live in a quiet road close to local schools. All areas of the ground floor are used for childminding, with an upstairs bedroom accessible for sleep only. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The family have a dog. The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and both the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. She is able to care for a maximum of six children at any one time. She is currently caring for two children on the Early Years Register and three children on the compulsory part of the Childcare Register. The childminder takes children to the local parks, library and activity centre. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The childminder's exceptional organisational skills, and enthusiasm and dedication to her role, ensure her practice runs smoothly and all children are fully included and have their individual needs effectively met. Children flourish within the childminder's care where they are unhurried and able to learn at their own pace. The childminder has outstanding relationships with parents and works closely in partnership with parents and others to meet every child's needs. She has an excellent understanding of her role and continually works to further improve her practice for the benefit of all children within her care.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

To further improve the high quality early years provision the registered person should consider:

- further improving self-evaluation systems by maintaining evaluative evidence of fire drills.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder is efficient and professional and provides children with a welcoming, stimulating home environment for their care and learning. Children are extremely happy and content and the childminder allows them to enjoy their childhood and to learn through independent exploration. She closely observes children's play and sensitively supports them, as required, to develop their knowledge and skills. Children's welfare is safeguarded exceptionally well. The childminder has attended both initial and advanced child protection training, has a detailed policy to support her practice in this area and maintains a record of all visitors to her home.

Glowing testimonials from parents provide evidence that the childminder has

excellent relationships with them. They are effusive in their praise of her practice stating, for example, that the childminder gives children an 'excellent start to life' and that her 'care is of the highest standard'. A comprehensively detailed portfolio of information is shared with parents about her childminding practice and both written and verbal information is shared daily about minded children. The childminder maintains an extensive range of documentation in support of her childminding, such as detailed risk assessments. Inclusive practice is exceedingly well promoted with the childminder respecting all children, listening to them and giving them equal opportunity to contribute to discussions, for example, regarding the weekly menu and activities they wish to take part in. The childminder works closely with parents and others to ensure children have positive, meaningful and fun experiences. She monitors and assesses her practice on an ongoing basis through discussion with parents, children and other childminders. Written records are maintained on some areas of assessment. She has meticulously completed a self-evaluation form and is proactive in continually expanding her resources to maintain children's interest and stimulation. Professional development is ongoing and since her last inspection the childminder has attended a range of training relating, for example, to the common assessment framework, the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and health and safety.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children have a fantastic time with the childminder where they are cared for as individuals with all activities child led and initiated. The childminder has close, loving relationships with children, is aware of their interests and ensures that children have access to toys and activities they enjoy. She has an excellent understanding of the different areas of learning and maintains detailed records for younger children clearly showing their progress within the EYFS and next steps in learning. Children find their voice as the childminder interprets the sounds they make and encourages them to say the words to reinforce learning. The childminder uses descriptive language as she talks to children about pictures in books, thereby developing children's vocabulary. Children demonstrate their developing knowledge of the natural world as they point to a picture of a duck and say the word. The childminder helps children make connections as she demonstrates the sound a duck makes which in turn makes children smile. Tender discussions and loving cuddles effectively promote children's emotional well-being and they are totally relaxed as they play in the safe, secure environment of the childminder's home. Hazards within the home have been identified and minimized and children develop an understanding of how to keep themselves safe as the childminder teaches them about stranger danger and they take part in regular fire drills.

Children develop a sound understanding of a healthy lifestyle as they have daily opportunities for exercise in the fresh air and are provided by the childminder with a varied, balanced diet. The childminder displays a 'five a day' chart and children take it in turns to mark how many fruit and vegetables they have had each day. Her policies and procedures ensure children are well protected from illness and infection. The home environment is maintained to a high standard of cleanliness, outdoor shoes are taken off indoors and children have individual flannels to use

when drying their hands. Children behave well as they are actively occupied. The childminder acts as a positive role model with regard to manners and parent testimonials confirm that children 'are polite and considerate to each other'. The childminder successfully organises her time and resources to ensure children have extensive opportunities to develop in all skill areas whilst continually developing in confidence and social skills as they play together. Children, for example, all work together at levels appropriate to their age and stage of development to put on shows. They all contribute to lists of activities for holiday times and the childminder works with both children and parents to ensure that the care provided supports children in being happy and well rounded individuals.

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?	1
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	1
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	1

Leadership and management

How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?	1
How effective is the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement?	1
How well does the setting work in partnership with parents and others?	1
How well are children safeguarded?	1

Quality and standards

How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?	1
How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?	1
How well are children helped to stay safe?	1
How well are children helped to be healthy?	1
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	1
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	1
How well are children helped develop skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being?	1

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

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.