

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	142287
Inspection date	23/12/2008
Inspector	Jan Healy
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 has been registered for 25 years. She is registered on the Early Years Register, compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. She lives with her partner in the city of Wells. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The family have two cats.

The childminder is registered to care for six children at any one time and is currently caring for nine children on a part-time basis.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The children participate in activities which interest them and the childminder has sufficient knowledge about how to promote the children's development. Although records are not currently in place to evidence the children's progression in relation to their starting points. They are treated with the respect they deserve with the childminder promoting inclusive practice for all. Continuous improvement is the childminder's goal, using a method of self-evaluating her provision to identify areas for development.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- develop a partnership with other agencies, where children receive education and care in more than one setting
- develop records of the children's learning and development in relation to their starting points

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

- keep written records of all medication administered to children and inform parents (safeguarding and promoting children's welfare) 06/01/2009
- carry out a full risk assessment for each type of outing (safeguarding and promoting children's welfare) 06/03/2009

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder aims to make her home child friendly and comfortable, consequently, the children settle quickly and happily upon arrival. Toys are age appropriate and make for interesting play both indoors and in the outdoor play area. The childminder strives for improvement and has successfully addressed the recommendations made at the previous inspection. A full risk assessment is not

currently in place, subsequently, not all actions are taken to manage or eliminate risks. Inclusive practice ensures the children's welfare needs are met and the children are helped to enjoy their learning through play. Links with other providers are not in place, such as other settings the children attend, resulting in the lack of integration of care. The childminder has the capacity to promote the improvement of her provision through the use of self-evaluation, which helps to reveal her own strengths and weaknesses, which she then builds upon. Safeguarding the children's welfare is a priority and one which the childminder takes seriously, ensuring the children remain protected from harm at all times.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The children remain free from cross-infection and illness, as the childminder takes appropriate precautions to ensure the children's good health. The home is clean and tidy and the children are reminded about the importance of maintaining their own personal hygiene, such as discarding tissues after a single use. The childminder holds a current first aid certificate and is confident to deal with an accident should one occur. Sick children are not permitted into the provision and if a child becomes unwell during their stay, they are swiftly reunited with their parents. However, not all records are suitably maintained when medication is administered to children, which is a breach of regulation. The children are safe whilst in the care of the childminder, as positive steps are taken to eliminate possible hazards, including the removal of sharp objects and dangerous items from their reach. The children are protected from adults who are not vetted and are taught about how to keep themselves safe, for instance, when playing in the garden. The childminder has sound understanding about child protection procedures and about how to deal with a concern should one arise. This helps to ensure the children's safety and welfare.

The children behave well whilst in the care of the childminder, as they enjoy her company and request her to join in with their play, which she does with enthusiasm. Realistic boundaries aid the children's sense of happiness and security. The childminder is able to deal calmly and with kindness when faced with challenging behaviour and she listens carefully and respectfully to what the children have to say. Any concerns are shared with the parents, so a solution can be swiftly found to resolve any misbehaviour.

Currently no plans are in place for the children's play, proving difficult for the childminder to support the children's on-going learning and development. There are, however, a wide range of toys and resources, which the older children access independently, as they are stored within their easy reach. Records are yet to begin to record the children's achievements in relation to their starting points.

The childminder treats the children as individuals, taking into account their age and interests. This contributes in the children's thinking skills, as for example, one child enjoys playing with technological resources, for instance Wii, building a portfolio of games and taking part in various physical activities. Their diverse backgrounds are taken into consideration during play as well as any learning difficulties or disabilities they may have. The children are taught that although

everyone is different, all are just as important and they have access to resources that promote positive images of diversity.

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