

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY382960
Inspection date	20/03/2009
Inspector	Lisa Patterson
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).

Children only attend this setting before and/or after the school day and/or during the school holidays. The judgements in this report reflect the quality of early years provision offered to children during those periods.

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 2008 and lives near Morecambe with her husband and nine year old daughter. Minded children have access to the whole of the single storey home, except for the main bedroom and the rear garden. The childminder attends several toddler groups on a regular basis. Childcare is offered each weekday from 07.30 till 17.30 all year round, with the exception of bank holidays.

Registration is for a total of six children, of whom no more than three may be in the early years age range. She is currently minding six children in this age range who attend on a full and part time basis. This provision is also registered by Ofsted on the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register.

The childminder is a member of the Bay Childminding Network and the National Childminding Association.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is good. Ongoing observations and assessments are used effectively for identifying and supporting children's next steps for learning and, therefore, the children make good progress. Space is well organised to promote independence, however, the childminder does not make full use of the environment and everyday experiences to consolidate learning. Safety is maintained through effective policies and procedures, however, children are not always supported in adopting healthy habits such as good hygiene practices. Parents are fully included in their child's care and learning and the childminder values their contributions as part of her effective, ongoing self-evaluation.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- further develop the individual learning journeys to include a range of assessment techniques so that children's progress can be more effectively tracked
- make more use of the rich and varied environment and everyday experiences to further enhance children's learning
- ensure hygiene standards are in place at all times regarding hand washing prior to snacks.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder is committed to self-evaluation and continuous improvement. She has completed the Ofsted self-evaluation form and identifies realistic targets to bring about improved outcomes for children. She regularly attends training and

cluster meetings with other childminders in order to share and learn from experiences. She has used training and advice from the local authority to good effect, particularly with regard to planning and assessment. All required documentation is in place and there is a comprehensive set of policy documents, which fully support her work.

Parents enjoy good relationships with the childminder and are purposefully included in their child's care and learning. They are provided with good quality information about the setting and daily diaries keep them informed of significant events or achievements during the day. The childminder encourages them to be involved in their child's learning through suggesting activities.

Children are cared for in a safe environment. Policies and procedures are used effectively to meet the needs of individual children, including risk assessments of the premises and outings. The childminder has a secure knowledge of safeguarding issues and has attended recent training to update her knowledge and skills in this area.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children are happy and relaxed in the childminder's care and she shows a good understanding of their individual personalities. The play environment is light and airy and offers space for reading, role play and small world play, or making marks. Children independently access resources from low-level storage and help to tidy away the toys. The childminder supports children's learning in all areas through planned activities, attendance at local toddler groups and child-led play in her home. She uses the learning journey well and has a clear understanding of the children's next steps and how these are supported through play. Ongoing observation is the main form of assessment and the childminder has developed a system for assessing the children more closely though this is in its infancy. Everyday activities and the play environment are not fully used to support learning, for example, children help to count grapes during snack times but other opportunities for developing number are missed. Children share the toys and are well mannered, being encouraged to say please and thankyou. They independently dress themselves and help younger children when dressing up. They enjoy sharing books and have strong imaginations, through which they also learn about staying safe, for example, when making pretend tea, children remind the Inspector that it will be hot. They have plenty of fresh air and exercise on a daily basis and enjoy walks to the park and onto the beach. Older children are beginning to understand how exercise keeps us healthy. Children learn about the wider world through books, activities and resources, which are supplemented through membership of the resources library. They independently use the digital camera and know how to view the pictures, showing them to the childminder.

Children learn to stay safe through reminders from the childminder, for example, she explains the dangers of putting toys in their mouths. They enjoy a wide variety of healthy snacks, including fruit and yoghurt, and are reminded to take a drink at regular intervals. Children are not fully supported in understanding the importance of good hygiene, because they do not wash their hands prior to snacks. Children

are very well behaved and the childminder is quick to support their needs, sharing her time equally. They show respect for one another and are learning that different people have different needs, for example, babies like to be cuddled gently. As a consequence, children are learning about the moral codes of society and how to interact appropriately.

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?	3
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
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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 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.