

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY300096
Inspection date	03/02/2009
Inspector	Patricia Mary Champion
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 was registered in 2004. She lives with her husband and two children aged nine and 12 years. They live in a house in a residential area within walking distance of schools, shops and the railway station in Basildon, Essex. All areas of the childminder's house are used for childminding. Access to the premises is via one small step into the front door. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time and is currently minding three children in the early years age group. The childminder walks or drives to local schools and nurseries to take and collect children. The family has two cats as pets.

The childminder also offers care to children aged over five years to 11 years. This provision is registered by Ofsted on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register.

The childminder attends the local carer and toddler group on a regular basis and takes children to local parks. She is a member of the National Childminding Association (NCMA).

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is good. The childminder has a good understanding of how young children learn and effectively plans purposeful activities and interesting outings according to individual children's needs, interests and capabilities. Efficient systems are in place to monitor and assess children's progress. The childminder works well with parents and seeks advice from relevant childcare professionals to ensure that children get additional help when required. The essential documentation that supports children's care and safeguards their welfare is generally in place.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- improve the two-way flow of information with parents by ensuring that all parents sign the appropriate consent agreements.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

Children benefit from the care of a motivated childminder who regularly attends training courses to update her knowledge of current childcare issues and trends. Self-evaluation is used to set realistic and achievable goals for improving outcomes for children. The childminder researches literature, websites and NCMA

publications to maintain continuous improvement and to ensure that her practice is fully inclusive. Risk assessment is used well to manage or eliminate risks within the home or on outings. Children are competently safeguarded because the childminder is fully aware of her child protection responsibilities and has attended recent safeguarding training.

The childminder has established friendly and helpful relationships with parents. An informative welcome pack is offered and parents provide information about children's needs and interests right from the start. Daily diaries are shared with details about activities and basic care needs. Parents are kept informed about their children's progress and achievements by routinely reading the tracker books, taking home artistic work and by regularly receiving photographs of their children learning through play. Parents speak positively about the care provided and appreciate the childminder's reliability and the way she sensitively develops children's language skills. Although all parents have signed clear contracts that detail business arrangements, there is potential for misunderstanding because not all parents have signed the relevant consent agreements. The childminder has developed effective links with the pre-school, school, health visitor and local childminding group to further promote children's welfare and learning.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The childminder provides a warm and caring atmosphere where children feel secure and enjoy a variety of learning experiences. A positive balance of child-initiated or adult-led activities are offered, both indoors and outside. Language is developed when the children and childminder look through the photographs together, remember what they have done and point out items of interest. The childminder extends children's learning and development through encouragement and by asking carefully formed questions. Activities are adapted for all ages and toddlers play happily alongside older pre-school children as they explore texture and shapes when they manipulate and roll play dough. Practical challenges are offered such as learning the safest way to climb the stairs. Children develop problem solving skills when weighing ingredients while cooking or widen their scientific knowledge when exploring which items float or sink. Children take an active interest in their natural surroundings as they visit the beach or they enjoy observing squirrels scampering in nearby parks.

Children are kept safe through many sound practices. Good use is made of stair gates and cupboard locks that ensure that children are protected from potential hazards. When on outings children are taught from an early age about road safety and are therefore becoming aware to think about personal safety.

The childminder ensures that all children participate fully and learn to respect each other's similarities and differences when they play with resources that reflect diversity. She sensitively recognises that some children may need additional support and liaises with parents to ensure that any necessary action is taken. Suitable activities give children the opportunity to develop the skills they need for the future such as mark-making with crayons, learning how to operate electronic toys and exploring sounds and letters. Children are kind and considerate towards

each other and are helped to learn right from wrong through the positive role model presented by the childminder.

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?	2
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:

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:

- develop a written statement of procedures to be followed in relation to complaints and share this with parents (Procedures for dealing with complaints). 03/03/2009

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 compulsory part of the Childcare Register section of the report (Procedures for dealing with complaints). 03/03/2009

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.