

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY241124
Inspection date	20/03/2009
Inspector	Hayley Lapworth
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 2003. She lives with her husband in the Walsgrave area of Coventry. The downstairs of the childminder's house is used for childminding along with the bathroom upstairs. The premises are accessible and there are stairs leading to the first floor. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children under eight at any one time, three of these can be within the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). There are currently nine children on roll, five of whom are in the early years age group. All children attend on a part-time basis. The family has one dog.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the provision is good. Children really enjoy their time in the childminder's well organised home. She effectively provides a warm and welcoming environment for the children. They access a good variety of activities which meet their needs most of the time and generally good information is obtained from their parents. She has good understanding of the six areas of learning and has devised systems of planning, observation and assessment, and is making some links with other providers. Children are making good progress towards the early learning goals. The childminder promotes inclusion throughout her practice and most required documentation is in place. The childminder is aware of the strengths and weaknesses of her provision and shows capacity to maintain continuous improvement.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- make sure that children's creativity is extended by the provision of support for their curiosity, exploration and play with regard to craft activities
- develop further the links with other providers where children attend more than one setting.

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

- include outings in the risk assessment (Safeguarding and promoting children's welfare).

03/04/2009

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder builds good partnerships with parents and carers to ensure children's individual needs are fully met. Good information is gathered from parents about their child before they start so that the childminder knows children's individual interests, routines and needs. This means they settle readily and feel secure. The childminder has a clear understanding of the learning and development requirements, she provides them with challenging experiences and they are making good progress towards the early learning goals. She is beginning to make links with other settings where children attend more than one provision, however this is not as yet fully effective and requires further development.

Through talking to the children and having regular discussion with their parents, the childminder actively seeks feedback about the service she provides. She then uses this information along with her developing self-evaluation process to reflect on her practice. She demonstrates a clear commitment to continual improvement in developing her provision. The childminder places an emphasis on her own professional development and has completed two levels of National Vocational Qualifications in child care.

The childminder is generally very organised and uses well written documentation effectively in order to promote the welfare of children. Risk assessments have been devised for most areas used by the children, apart from outings they may participate in. Consequently, this may potentially impact upon their safety. A good range of policies and procedures are in place to safeguard children. She is secure in her understanding of her role and responsibilities in the event of child protection concerns and this means children are kept safe from harm.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The childminder has a generally good understanding of children's individual abilities, which enables her to provide experiences to support each child's development. Toys and resources are age appropriate and children have fun in this setting, playing in the home and outdoors in the garden.

The childminder provides a family friendly environment where inclusive practice is well promoted. Each child is valued and made to feel good about themselves as she consistently praises their efforts and celebrates their achievements. This is best demonstrated by the way the childminder got excited and clapped with enthusiasm when a young child in her care used a new word and repeatedly named the colour 'purple'. Children's independence and confidence is promoted because the childminder ensures that children have opportunities to help her. In most cases children's creativity is encouraged well and they love to access craft materials, like stickers and glitter, where they produce art work that represents their own ideas. However, on one occasion during an Easter card making session, children's learning had been restricted as the childminder had been too involved in creating the end product. As a result children's creativity is occasionally constrained within an adults representation of the world.

Children are happy and have developed good relationships with the childminder and one another. They enjoy a cuddle at story time and readily show affection. Their physical development is promoted both in and outdoors. For example, toddlers dance to music and participate in early gymnastics, like learning how to do 'forward rolls' with the support of the childminder. In the rear play area they participate in games, like hopscotch. Children are confident in the presence of visitors and chat, sharing their own experiences and are keen to talk about 'home life'. Therefore, children's skills in communication and language are developing well and they feel valued.

The childminder gathers clear information from parents about children's dietary requirements and this ensures children can eat safely. Children's health is promoted by good hygiene routines and young children know why this is important. For example, they share that 'you have to get rid of all the germs'. The children are learning about their own safety as they are involved in discussions about crossing roads. Also, signs are displayed for them to become familiar with the meeting point if they need to evacuate the premises in an emergency. The childminder ensures she can respond appropriately if a child becomes ill or has an accident.

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:	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 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.