

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	210342
Inspection date	16/02/2009
Inspector	Ann Winifred Harrison
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 1987. She lives with her husband in the town of Cheslyn Hay in the county of Staffordshire. The shops, park and library are within walking distance of the home. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding, this comprises of the conservatory, sitting room, dining room and kitchen. Although the premises are easily accessible, they may not be suitable for children with mobility issues as the toilet is located on the first floor. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time. She is registered on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. The childminder currently has three children under five years on roll and one child over five, who attend on a part-time basis. She walks to local schools to take and collect children and attends local toddler groups and childminder groups.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the provision is good. The childminder provides a warm and caring environment where all children are included and make good progress in their learning and development. Planning ensures that children experience a wide range of stimulating and enjoyable activities, taking into account their personal preferences. Parents and carers are consulted and included in all aspects of their child's care. The childminder has evaluated her practice and is clear about her strengths and the areas she wants to improve to enhance children's individual welfare and development.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- develop further understanding of safeguarding children procedures with regard to the procedure to follow if an allegation of abuse is made against the childminder.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder provides a warm, welcoming and homely environment for the children in her care. She has developed detailed written policies and procedures to meet the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) requirements and ensures that children are safe and well cared for. These are readily available to all parents and carers because they are given a copy as soon as their children start. Risk assessments are thorough and take account of the indoor and outdoor environment so that hazards are minimised. In addition, risk assessments include any outings that the children undertake. The childminder is aware of signs and

symptoms of abuse and the importance of notifying the relevant agencies promptly with any concerns. However, she is not fully aware of the procedures to follow if an allegation of abuse is made against herself. This potentially means children are not fully protected.

The childminder is very proactive in ensuring that her knowledge base regarding children's learning and development is sound, and as a result is keen to attend any training. As part of her own evaluation she has identified areas for improvement. For example, she acknowledges that she needs to develop further ways to give children more responsibility for planning their own day. She has attended a variety of training, such as equality, diversity, exploration and discovery and has explored ways in which to build on her own knowledge and understanding and make any necessary changes so that the quality of care is enhanced. The childminder sees this as an ongoing process and liaises closely with parents, carers and other early years professionals for their suggestions and comments.

Partnerships with parents and carers are strong as the childminder values their contributions and keeps them informed about all aspects of their child's development. The childminder uses parent's and carer's observations and information gleaned from initial interviews as well as her own observations, so that she can plan for individual children's learning accordingly.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Effective systems are in place to ensure that all children make good progress across all areas of learning and development. The childminder uses very detailed observation and assessment sheets to monitor and record individual children's progress and identify next steps for their learning. She then completes follow-up observations to cross reference with these and ensures that she is tracking the child's progress meticulously. She plans and adapts activities according to children's individual needs so that each child reaches their full potential. Planning is flexible, yet responds to children's interests so that they are purposefully engaged and happy in their play. The childminder is well organised and spends the majority of her time engaging and playing with the children. She has a good understanding of managing behaviour. She uses lots of praise and rewards good behaviour and effort with stars and certificates which are proudly displayed on the wall. Children learn that this is a 'sharing house' where they play together and happily share their toys.

The childminder listens intently to children and is genuinely interested in everything they say and do. As a result, children vocalise and express themselves well. They readily talk about what they are doing and are keen to share ideas and thoughts. Children talk excitedly about cutting out pictures of dinosaurs. They concentrate well as they draw around their own hands and carefully cut them out. The childminder extends learning through good questioning such as, 'do you think my hands are bigger or smaller than your hands?'. She helps children draw around her hand and then compare the two sizes. The childminder helps children to keep themselves safe during everyday play, for example, children know that they should be careful when using the scissors as they may cut themselves. They use their

imagination as they make tigers with cardboard tubes, paper and sticky tape. Time is spent sharing news and enjoying conversation. A child relates how he had 'hiccups' at playgroup and they recall how they found a yellow and black ladybird in the garden. They enjoy learning about nature as they go on nature walks and collect twigs and leaves to make collages.

Children are provided with healthy and nutritious snacks, such as fresh fruit, which they thoroughly enjoy. The childminder works with parents and carers to ensure their lunch boxes are healthy, she encourages children to try new foods and discourages too many sweets and chocolate. Children are able to take a drink when they wish as the childminder provides fresh water at all times. Records and documentation are in place to ensure children's health needs are met. The childminder follows children's dietary needs to ensure their individual needs are adhered to. Good hygiene procedures for nappy changing and individual towels and flannels for hand washing limit the risk of cross contamination. Children's health is further promoted through good opportunities for outdoor play. They enjoy playing in the garden and going on outings on the bus to the park.

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

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the requirements of the Early Years Register.

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.