

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	202632
Inspection date	05/02/2009
Inspector	Jenny Howell
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 since 1997. She lives in a house in a residential area of Wickford, close local shops, schools and parks. All areas of the ground floor are used for childminding. The house is accessed via a small step into the hall with bathroom facilities available downstairs.

The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. She is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently caring for seven children, providing full-time and part-time care as well as before and after school care. The childminder is a member of the National Childminders Association.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is good. The needs of all children are met as the childminder recognises them each as an individual. Simple routines and healthy meals ensure that children's health and welfare is promoted. Children make good progress in their learning and development through well supported play. Good relationships are established with parents to ensure a regular exchange of all relevant information. The childminder has made some improvements since the last inspection, which have had a positive impact on children's 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 planning in order to make use of assessments and ensure that individual children make progress towards the early learning goals in all areas of learning
- develop a system of self-evaluation in order to support continuous improvement.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The needs of all children are met through the safe and efficient management of the setting. All required documents are in place and these are kept up-to-date. A good range of policies and procedures have been developed to support the childminder in caring for children, and to provide parents with additional information. The childminder refreshes her skills and knowledge by regularly attending training courses, including first aid, as well as by sharing information with other childminders on an informal basis. As a result of this she is able to make improvements to the service she provides, as demonstrated, by addressing the training needs identified at the last inspection. However, the childminder does not yet carry out any form of formal self-evaluation in order to support her in making

continuous improvements.

Effective procedures are in place to protect children. Risk assessments ensure that all areas of the house are safe and secure, with items such as stair gates and cupboard locks appropriately located. Toys and equipment are clean and in good condition as well as being appropriate to the ages of children using them. For example, young children do not have access to toys with small parts. The childminder has a good understanding of how to keep children safe on trips and outings and makes sure that an appropriate car seat is used for each child when transporting them by car.

Effective links with parents ensures that all relevant information is shared on a daily basis, with a diary system used to communicate with some parents. All relevant information is gathered from parents before children are cared for, ensuring that the childminder can provide appropriate care, for example, if a child becomes ill. Completion of an 'introducing myself' booklet also helps the childminder find out about what children can do, what they like and dislike and how they are cared for at home. This supports the childminder in fully including all children and caring for them effectively, according to their individual needs.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children are supported in making good progress towards the early learning goals. They enjoy learning through play in a stimulating environment where they can choose toys independently and enjoy the company of others. Children are provided with a good range of activities. Children also enjoy making use of the local environment to extend their learning through trips to the zoo, local parks and the sea side. Children are able to explore texture through playdough and express their creativity through drawing, painting and cutting and sticking, activities which also help them to refine their small motor skills.

The childminder has recently started to make written observations of what children can do, in order to help her identify the progress they are making and to plan future activities. While the childminder already provides a good balance of different types of activities she does not yet plan these based on her observations of what children can do, in order to ensure they make progress towards all of the early learning goals. The childminder is effective in enhancing children's learning. She communicates clearly with children, using language which will support their understanding of new ideas, while also encouraging them to think and speak for themselves. Daily routines, such as mealtimes help children to develop their independence as they feed themselves and begin to communicate their likes and dislikes.

Children's health and well-being is effectively promoted. The childminder has a good understanding of how to protect children and has kept her safeguarding training up-to-date. She provides children with healthy and nutritious meals, ensuring fresh fruit and vegetables are available each day. Children are cared for in a clean and hygienic environment. They are supported in learning how to keep themselves clean, for example, by washing their hands or wiping their faces after

eating. Nappy changing procedures are effective and ensure that children are never left wet or dirty. As well as being cared for in a safe environment, children also learn how to keep themselves safe. They know to hold on to the buggy when out on walks and also practise a simplified fire escape routine with the childminder at home. All children enjoy high levels of support and encouragement from the childminder, which ensures they feel safe and secure in her care, thus helping them to play and learn confidently and without inhibition.

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?	3
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 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.