

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	223725
Inspection date	24/03/2009
Inspector	Juliette Jennings
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 2000. She lives with her husband and their two teenage children aged 12 years and 14 years in a suburb of Shrewsbury, Shropshire, close to shops, parks, schools and public transport links. The downstairs of the childminder's home is used for childminding as well as the upstairs bathroom. There is a good sized garden available for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding two children under five years. She also offers care to children aged over five years to 11 years. This provision is registered by Ofsted on the Early Years Register and both the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register.

The childminder collects children from the local schools. She is a member of the National Childminding Association and receives support from the local authority.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is good. The childminder successfully implements formal and informal procedures which ensures that children's welfare and learning is supported well within a homely, caring and interesting environment. Consistently strong partnerships with parents and others means consistency of care is afforded to all children and ensures continued awareness of children's individual needs. Documentation is organised very effectively, with detailed and well-maintained clear information about the safe, secure and child-friendly environment which is thoroughly enjoyed by all children. A broad range of motivating, age-appropriate and enjoyable experiences are provided which help them to develop and learn and this is supported by a developing system for ongoing assessment and planning for progress. The childminder has an effective process for self-evaluation and has highlighted clear areas for improvement so that outcomes for children continue to be good.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- develop further the systems for matching observations to the expectations of the development matters stages, and use this information to plan experiences which are appropriate to each child's stage of development as they progress towards the early learning goals
- formalise the risk assessment for outings to the local school to take and collect children.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

Children are safeguarded effectively because of the childminder's secure procedures and systems for security and safety. Daily visual safety checks, alongside completion of thorough written risk assessments, helps to ensure that children enjoy a safe environment. Security in and around the home is good and ensures that children remain secure in the childminder's care. However, there is currently no formal system in place for risk assessing the daily trip to the local school, although the childminder described good systems for ensuring children's safety when they are away from the setting. The childminder has accessed training in Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures so that she has a sound knowledge of what to do if she has a concern. She has developed a written procedure which highlights what she would do if she had a concern about any of the children and this is readily available to parents.

Consistency of care for all children is enabled because the childminder maintains a strong partnership with parents and others. Information is shared on a regular basis and opportunities for parents to comment on their child's ongoing development are frequent. The childminder has developed some detailed policies and procedures which are shared with parents and highlight what happens at the setting on a day to day basis. In addition, ongoing discussions about the activities children enjoy and their stages of development, within an ethos of open and friendly relationships, mean that parents are well-informed about what their children are doing whilst they attend.

A warm, welcoming, friendly and homely environment is provided, with children able to access a well-organised space with a good range of activities and resources. Children are able to enjoy free play in a child-orientated environment and develop sound relationships with other children and adults. They thoroughly enjoy activities in the indoor and outdoor areas and are confident in their care environment.

The childminder seeks to access a range of training opportunities and support to help her to develop her knowledge and understanding of childcare issues. She has completed a self-evaluation for continuous improvement and has clear aims and objectives in relation to what she needs to do to ensure that children continue to be well cared for.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The childminder organises her home well so that children are able to access a range of toys, resources and equipment within a homely, comfortable and friendly space. Colourful and stimulating toys and resources are available at low-level so that children are able to access their favourite activities as and when they wish to. For example, play dough, books, dolls and small world people are provided so that children can develop their imaginary skills, with good support and encouragement from the childminder.

Children are provided with healthy, balanced and nutritious snacks throughout the day and enjoy hot lunches which have been provided by their parents. Children are able to take a drink of water when they wish because individual, age-appropriate cups are provided for them. Records and documentation to ensure children's health needs are met are up-to-date and reflect requirements. Outdoor activities include walks to and from the local school and frequent play opportunities in the garden so that children have good opportunities to develop their physical skills and access fresh air and light at regular intervals during the day.

Children are supported to make choices about what they want to do in a child-initiated routine and this helps them to develop their self-esteem and independence. In addition, a range of adult-led activities are provided which further support ongoing individual development. The childminder provides activities and resources which actively engage the children and help them to progress towards the early learning goals. However, the systems for providing planned activities from the information provided by ongoing individual assessments has scope for further development to ensure that children's ongoing development through the development matters stages is fully supported.

The childminder supports all the children in a capable, calm, relaxed and caring manner, offering direction where required to keep children motivated and interested. A range of activities and resources are available which help to promote equality of opportunity and diversity. In addition, the close partnership with parents ensures that children's individual needs and routines are accommodated very well within the well-organised, homely, caring childminding space.

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

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 voluntary part of the Childcare Register, the registered person must take the following action/s by the specified date:

- obtain a level 2 qualification or access training in the common core skills. (Qualifications and training)

31/03/2010

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.