

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY254956
Inspection date	01/04/2009
Inspector	Caroline Hearn
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 registered in 2002. She is registered on the Early Years Register and both the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. The childminder lives with her husband who is also a registered childminder and they have four children aged one, five, seven and 10. The family live in Thatcham, Berkshire. The whole of the property is used for childminding and is readily accessible. There is an enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of three children under-eight years at any one time and is currently minding one child in the early years age range on a part-time basis. When working with her co-childminder they may mind six children under-eight years at any one time. Currently the childminder undertakes the main role of caring for the children as the co-childminder has another job. The family have two cats.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is good. The childminder and her co-minder provide the children with a welcoming child-oriented environment. All aspects of children's development are considered and children make good progress in their learning and development. The childminder and her co-minder work well to support each other and use their individual strengths to develop their practice.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- extend existing risk assessments to cover all outings
- undertake self evaluation to enable areas for future development to be identified

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder and her co-minder have worked closely to develop their childminding service and have identified each others strengths and use these to develop their childminding service. They have begun to review some areas of their childminding practice but would benefit from undertaking further reflection on all areas to support continued good outcomes for children. The childminder works closely with parents to ensure there is a daily exchange of information which well supports continuity of care between home and the childminder's.

The childminder works with detailed policies and procedures and although she does not take the lead role for paperwork she ensures all required documentation for the children is completed. This ensures she has details of children's routines and likes and dislikes which allows her to offer care tailored to meet each child's

needs. They have developed risk assessments for all areas of the home and garden although have not extended these to include outings. The childminder is clearly aware of how to safeguard children by ensuring adults in the household are suitably vetted and is aware of the appropriate routes of referral for any child protection concerns.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The children clearly enjoy the time they spend with the childminder, she plans a variety of activities which well support each child's learning and development. Within the home children undertake activities such as craft and make and do. The childminder uses these activities to introduce the children to different shapes and textures. Children also enjoy quieter activities such as story time and looking at books. The childminder plans many outings for the children and they may visit a local farm to see the animals or go to the shop to buy the ingredients to make a loaf of bread. These type of activities give the children a good understanding of the wider world. When children start to attend her setting the childminder records details such as what they are able to do and favourite activities which ensures she is aware of each child's level of attainment . She then effectively uses these records as a starting point for each child's learning journey.

Children learn about safety and how to keep themselves safe. This underpins everyday activities such as encouraging the children to hold her hand when out walking and explaining why they need to stop and look before crossing the road. Children's behaviour is managed in a consistent way. The childminder makes good use of distraction and discussion. As a result, children's behaviour is good and they are considerate to the needs of others. To promote inclusion, the childminder has positive images and resources which show children of differing abilities or those with different cultural backgrounds. She uses these to talk to the children about how we are all different.

Children are provided with a balanced diet and menus are shared with parents so they are aware of what is being offered to their children. Also to increase children's understanding of where food comes from they go with the childminder to the shops to select and purchase items for meals. Children are safeguarded from the spread of infection as the childminder encourages them to follow simple everyday routines such as hand washing and not sharing cups.

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 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.