

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY296671
Inspection date	29/06/2009
Inspector	Rachael Williams
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 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 2004. She lives with her husband and three children in the village of Wembdon near Bridgwater, Somerset. All areas of the family home are registered, however, children mainly access the ground floor of the premises where there are toilet facilities. There is an enclosed rear garden for outside play. The childminder escorts children to places of interest within the locality.

This provision is registered by Ofsted on the Early Years Register and both parts of the Childcare Register. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children under eight at any one time, of which no more than three may be in the early years age range. She also offers care for older children. At present she has nine children on roll, five of which are in the early years age group.

The childminder holds a Level 3 qualification in early years. The family care for a dog, cat, rabbits and guinea pigs.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall, the provision is outstanding. The childminder is proactive at making outcomes for children excellent as she has an accurate understanding of child development and takes effective steps to improve her provision through comprehensive self-evaluation. Positive relationships with parents ensure continuity in children's care within a fully inclusive environment. The childminder has exceptional understanding of children's individual requirements, routines and capabilities hence, children thoroughly enjoy their time with the childminder and make excellent progress in their learning and development.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

To further improve the high quality early years provision the registered person should consider:

- continue to develop systems to involve parents in their children's learning and to liaise with other early years providers
- ensure the complaints log is updated to show outcomes for children rather than National Standards.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

Children are cared for by an experienced and well-qualified childminder. She is proactive in accessing relevant training to further promote children's health, safety and learning, such as an early years Level 3 qualification. Children benefit from a well-organised, homely environment that they can freely and confidently explore. For example, during their play children confidently access additional resources, such as bowls to put their play dough shapes in. The childminder meticulously

ensures that the environment is safe and secure for the children for instance, the front door remains locked during minding hours and there are effective collection arrangements in place to ensure that children are collected by suitable adults. Very clear registration systems ensure that the ratios are maintained and that children are closely supervised by a vigilant childminder. On the whole, policies and procedures are regularly reviewed and updated to underpin the excellent childminding service. However, the complaints log has not been updated to reflect the new requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage framework.

Comprehensive self-evaluation systems ensure that the childminder is fully aware of the strengths and weaknesses of the provision in order to promote effective outcomes for the children for instance, she has noted that an area for improvement is to further involve parents in contributing to children's learning and establishing a communication letter for information to be shared with other early years providers. Parents receive a wealth of information about the provision and daily communication ensures that they are fully informed of the activities that children engage in and the achievements they make. Parents offer positive testimonials for the childminding service and the excellent relationships established, for example, they say the childminder provides a 'family environment' and has a 'bubbly, warm and bright' personality.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children are introduced to healthy lifestyles. They have a wealth of opportunities to be physically active and outside in the fresh air, for example, through attendance at a local physical play centre and in the well-equipped rear garden. Children learn about keeping themselves safe through gentle reminders from the childminder for instance, in relation to stranger danger and crossing the road. The children really enjoy opportunities to visit places of interest within the local environment which enhances their learning and development. For example, a younger child recounts his recent visit to the fire station where he was able to squirt water with the hose. Children enjoy healthy food provided by the parents which is stored appropriately by the childminder and supplemented with a selection of fruit. The childminder replenishes drinks regularly and children may access these in the kitchen to ensure that they remain hydrated.

The childminder maintains a clean environment. Very good arrangements have been established to ensure children are protected whilst playing with the pets for instance, the children wash their hands after petting the family dog. The childminder ensures pet health as she completes a daily checklist and effectively monitors treatments. Whilst outside the childminder is vigilant about sun safety as she ensures that children wear sun hats, have appropriate shade and wear sunscreen. A younger child brings his sun cream to the childminder and reminds her that his mum has not put it on today. Hence, children are fully protected. There are very clear and confidential systems in place to document accidents, incidents and administered medication. Appropriate consents are gained from parents to maintain children's welfare.

Children are extremely well-behaved. They play cooperatively taking turns with the

small world equipment, such as the cars and trains. The childminder effectively manages behaviour through her consistent practices and liaison with parents to ensure continuity for instance, using clear explanations and time-out to develop children's understanding of boundaries and expectations. Excellent relationships are established with the children and they have a wonderful sense of belonging within the family home. The childminder has excellent understanding of children's interests, starting points and capabilities to ensure that she can provide a balanced range of experiences that are relevant to the children's learning and development. Children make decisions about their play selecting toys and resources from a vast range of high quality and developmentally appropriate items which are stored effectively for easy access. The childminder interacts with the children well and progresses their learning through her effective open-ended questioning and introduction to new vocabulary. One child decides to be a driver and accesses chairs from the kitchen and carries them carefully to create a fire engine showing excellent spatial awareness; he makes the sound of the fire engine as he drives the engine explaining the purpose of his visit. He selects the doctor's bag and his imaginative role play is enhanced through the childminder's support and interaction. Observations of the children are effectively linked to areas of learning and children's stage of development hence, a comprehensive record has been established of children's progression towards the early learning goals.

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?	1
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	1
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	1

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?	1
How well does the setting work in partnership with parents and others?	2
How well are children safeguarded?	1

Quality and standards

How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?	1
How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?	1
How well are children helped to stay safe?	1
How well are children helped to be healthy?	1
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	1
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	1
How well are children helped develop skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being?	1

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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