

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY301682
Inspection date	15/01/2009
Inspector	Jill Milton
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 2005 and she lives with her husband and two sons in Wheatley. She is registered on the Early Years Register and both the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. Her home is accessible and convenient for local schools, shops and parks. Minded children use the whole of the ground floor in the home and there is an enclosed garden for outdoor play. The family have two dogs, two cats and five rabbits. The childminder's registration permits her to care for up to six children under eight years at any one time. She currently cares for five children in the early years age range on a part-time basis. The childminder occasionally works with an assistant and she offers overnight care for one child under eight years.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The childminder is enthusiastic and committed to her work as a carer of young children. She organises her home to provide a warm and safe place for children to play. Each child is treated with respect and the childminder provides strong support to their individual learning and development needs. Children are happy and content at the childminder's home, where they respond to her sense of fun and encouragement. The childminder demonstrates a positive attitude to improving her practice and although not yet fully effective, she is starting to use some new methods to record children's progress.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- extend observations of child development and use to plan their next steps

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder creates a pleasant homely atmosphere where young children are content to play and learn. She pays careful consideration to safety with a broad range of risk assessments to ensure potential hazards are kept to a minimum. The childminder has concise written policies and procedures, which she uses to keep children safe and healthy. She has recently spent time reorganising her paperwork so that it now provides neat and useful reinforcement to her daily routine. The childminder regards her communication with parents as an important part of her work and she uses a helpful display in the home of information to share with them. The childminder respects the views of parents regarding diet, religion and family customs. She makes good use of opportunities to learn more about her families and this positive attitude is a good role model to the children in learning to value others. The childminder recognises her responsibilities in the area of child protection and her knowledge is reinforced with updates to training so that she can act promptly if she has concerns for a child. She is making a good start in using a

self-evaluation form to reflect on her work and she is motivated to improve outcomes for children, for example through studying for qualifications in childcare or with additions to the garden to offer more outdoor play.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children have a good relationship with the childminder and they are secure and happy in her care. The childminder has a competent understanding of the routines of younger children and they move seamlessly from feed times to contented naps. The childminder has a careful regard for the health and safety of children, checking for example that sleeping babies are safe. She works closely with parents to ensure that she knows about individual health and dietary requirements. Accident records and details of administered medicines are diligently recorded and shared with parents. From samples of menus, it is clear that children enjoy a broad range of foods and hot lunches provide warmth and nourishment in the day. Children learn about home safety when they take part in the monthly fire evacuations with the childminder, recording their latest evacuation in under a minute as 'brilliant'. Children take part in energetic play in the garden where they can explore a range of equipment. Indoors, they are keen to select toys from storage boxes within their reach and colourful items catch the interest of toddlers, who enjoy music and dance. Whilst safety gates sensibly restrict the movement of babies, the older children can move freely around the ground floor of the home and independently visit the clean downstairs bathroom.

The childminder is supporting individual children effectively with their learning and development. She is starting to make brief notes about children's achievements and to think about how to use this information to help children take the next steps in learning. She provides children with a broad range of activities over time to help them progress in all six areas of learning. Resources are in good condition and are clean and suitable for the age range of children. Some well-chosen items help children to explore early number or letter shapes and they are taking their first steps to use technology. The childminder plans the week around the children and offers a good balance between outings to experience the wider world and plenty of time in the home environment for play and rest. Children are developing social skills as they play alongside each other and the childminder encourages good behaviour through positive reinforcement. She is confident at using reward charts if this is appropriate for a particular situation and she discusses behaviour management with parents with the aim of providing consistency.

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.