

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	110613
Inspection date	19/01/2009
Inspector	Clare Moore
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 1995. She lives with her husband and three student children. They live in a house in the village of Dibden Purlieu from where they walk to the local schools, shops and park. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding, with a first floor bedroom for overnight care. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and on both the voluntary and compulsory parts of the Childcare Register. She may care for a maximum of six children under eight years of age at any one time, and provide overnight care for a maximum of two children. She is currently minding five children in the early years age group and one school aged child. She also cares for six children who are over eight years of age. Most of the children attend part-time.

The family has a pet dog. The childminder attends a local parent and toddler group on a regular basis. She is a member of the National Childminding Association and holds a level 3 qualification in Childminding Practice.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

All children are happy, settled and demonstrate a sense of belonging. The childminder is exceptionally well organised and resourceful. Her lively and positive approach helps to create a welcoming and positive environment where children feel secure. She continuously seeks to develop her provision and explore innovative ways to promote positive outcomes for children.

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 improve the garden to give children further opportunities to learn and develop.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder demonstrates dedicated enthusiasm and clear understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage and how to use it to support all the children in her care. She is meticulous in making sure children's individual needs are met by ensuring that they can all join in at the level that suits their abilities. She ensures that children who are going through change are helped with methods that are tailored to promote smooth transitions and reduce stress.

The childminder regularly attends training courses and accesses information from the internet which she uses to update her skills and knowledge and improve

outcomes for children. She evaluates all aspects of her provision methodically and thoroughly. She liaises very well with parents ensuring they have regular access to children's records. She makes sure they are exceptionally well informed about the service she provides through clear policies. She lends out information she has gathered in books and files for the benefit of parents, for example, clear unbiased information about healthy eating. She works together with the pre-school that children attend so that she can weave topics into her planning to provide continuity. She links up with other childminders, supporting them and sharing some of the ways they can use to document their observations, keep records and plan the next steps of learning.

Children are safeguarded very well as the childminder has attended specific training regarding child protection, keeps reference materials to hand and ensures parents understand her responsibilities in this area.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children enjoy attending and little ones demonstrate the affection they have for the childminder by reaching out to her eagerly and snuggling in for comfort. Children play together harmoniously, sharing tasks and talking eagerly about their dressing-up, setting out their make-believe party and inviting guests. Children find out about how to keep themselves safe through using a knife and cutters carefully as they prepare the fruit for their snack. They are exceptionally well aware of how to keep themselves healthy through taking care with personal hygiene and making healthy eating choices.

Children make rapid strides in their learning and development as they have easy access to an extensive selection of high quality resources and are very well supported by the childminder. Each child has an individual file which sets out details of observations, activities, photographs and samples of work under the six areas of learning. Children enjoy frequent opportunities to benefit from fresh air and exercise as they visit parks on the daily school run and also use the garden to grow vegetables and fruit and practise riding wheeled toys such as tricycles. The childminder plans to increase opportunities to make maximum use of the garden by developing an area for the children to call their own to grow their plants. Children are totally immersed in their activities. They explore counting as they make play dough, counting out the spoonfuls of flour and salt, adding the water then observing what happens as the colour is added in drops. They work their arms vigorously, noting that it will make their muscles strong as they stir it all together and see the colour of their choice gradually mix in.

They find out about sharing as they are supported by the childminder to make sure a younger child is included. They work together cooperatively to help tidy up, with two children carrying the box together. They explore technology with a variety of battery operated toys. A younger child is captivated by the battery operated doll that moves and makes sounds. He puts the dummy in the mouth then removes it in a game. Children use exciting opportunities to explore other countries and cultures, such as Australia. They track information as the childminder's daughter is spending time there and sends back photographs of the animals and news of her

adventures. These are displayed along with a world map on the wall at child height. Children eagerly follow the childminder as she collects up the post, discussing with them if there is anything coming from Australia today, which helps them to develop a positive attitude to diversity.

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?	1
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?	1
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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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.