

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY288667
Inspection date	30/03/2009
Inspector	Carol Cox
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 2004. She lives with her husband and four children aged six, eight, 13 and 15 years in Portishead, North Somerset. There are toddler groups, shops, a sports centre, schools, parks and a soft play area within walking distance of the house. The ground floor and the first floor, with the exception of the main bedroom, are used for childminding. There is an enclosed rear garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time and is currently minding four children under five years. The childminder also offers care to children after school. The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is good. The childminder uses her good knowledge of how children learn and develop to identify and meet the needs of each child in her care. This means that all children are fully included in her provision. Children enjoy a healthy lifestyle and are safeguarded because the childminder has a very good understanding of the welfare requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. She builds excellent relationships with parents and other carers to provide consistent care and promote children's progress. Although the system to evaluate her provision is not yet fully developed, the childminder demonstrates her capacity for continuous improvement through her effective implementation of the Early Years Foundation Stage.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- continue to develop the methods of recording and assessing children's achievements, sharing this information with parents and agreeing ways of working together to extend children's learning and include identified next steps of children's learning
- develop systems of self-evaluation to identify the setting's strengths and priorities for development that will improve the quality of provision for all children

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder organises her practice very effectively to provide a warm and welcoming environment where children settle quickly and make good progress. She has clear and well written policies and procedures to support her practice and shares these with parents. She safeguards children through her good knowledge of child protection issues. Her child protection procedure meets the guidance of the

Local Safeguarding Children Board and includes contact details for relevant services. Parents are given written information about the childminder's responsibilities for protecting children and what they should do if they wish to make a complaint directly to Ofsted. The childminder is rigorous in ensuring children's safety both within her home and when on outings in the local community. She makes robust risk assessments and daily checks of every aspect of her provision. She has established emergency cover arrangements with local childminders and ensures they are introduced to children and their parents.

The childminder is well qualified and is committed to ongoing professional development. She is currently studying for a National Vocational Qualification at level 3 in Childcare, Learning and Development. She has started to evaluate her practice and has identified areas for development. For example, she is developing learning diaries to record children's progress and uses these to plan for their future learning. She reflects on her provision and has identified the need for current safeguarding children training. The childminder has made very good progress in implementing the Early Years Foundation Stage.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The childminder uses her good knowledge of the Early Years Foundation Stage learning and development requirements to help children make good progress. She records observations of children's progress and uses these to identify their next steps in learning. She illustrates these records with photographs and examples of children's achievements and shares them with parents. The childminder uses this detailed knowledge of children's progress and individual interests to plan a wide and varied range of activities to encourage learning in all areas. Children also enjoy opportunities to freely choose their own activities. They are supported by the excellent range of easily accessible resources and toys. For example, children play outside with ride-on toys, one child attempts to pedal a bike helped by the childminder. Both children want the same bike and the childminder gently helps them to agree to share. She explains that they are both the same age and sharing is an issue at the moment; she uses games to help them learn to take turns. The children enjoy learning about their world and begin to show care for others. For example, the childminder helps children stroke the pet rabbit and shows them how to pet her head not her feet.

Children's health and welfare are effectively promoted through everyday routines and careful organisation. Children learn to care for themselves, for example, they wash their hands after petting the rabbit and use individually named towels with the childminder's support. The childminder prevents the spread of infection through a robust exclusion policy when children have infectious illnesses. Children benefit from healthy and nutritious food and drinks at snack time and learn to identify their own physical needs, for example, remembering to drink after hectic play outside. The childminder helps children learn about managing their own behaviour by talking to them about the effects their actions may have on others. Children generally behave very well and learn to enjoy sharing with others. The childminder recognises the importance of forming firm relationships with parents and others to help provide consistent and informed care. Children's progress in all

areas is greatly enhanced by the knowledgeable and sensitive understanding the childminder has of each child in her care.

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.