

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY292117
Inspection date	21/01/2009
Inspector	Shirley Ann Jackson
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. She lives with her husband, who is also a registered childminder, and two children aged four and 10 years. They live in Cinderford and the whole of the house is used for childminding, at the childminder's discretion. The house is accessed via a steep single-track road. There is a garden available for outdoor play. The family have two pet cats, a tortoise and a lizard.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children under eight years, of which no more than two may be in the early years age group. There are currently 10 children on roll, aged from 13 months to three years. The childminder is also registered on the compulsory and the voluntary parts of the Childcare Register.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The childminder recognises the uniqueness of each child and provides care and education which is aimed at them as individuals. She supports every child effectively ensuring they are taking part in activities and experiences which interest and stimulate them, enabling them to make good progress in their learning and development. The childminder promotes all aspects of children's welfare to ensure their safety and health. The childminder reflects on her practice to identify strengths and areas for development. Partnerships with parents are strong, but links with other settings are still in their infancy.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- continue to build links with other providers offering the Early Years Foundation Stage to ensure all adults take part in assessment and so that there is continuous and consistent care

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder uses the available space within her home effectively to encourage children to become independent learners. The available space is well organised, giving children the freedom to move between the playroom, lounge and kitchen, depending on which activity they are enjoying. The childminder has a wide range of toys and resources, some of which are easily accessible to the children, encouraging their independence. She has conducted a thorough risk assessment of her home, garden and for any outings taken with the children, to ensure they are safe and suitable for her to use. The childminder has produced written policies and procedures which reflect her daily practice. Children are safeguarded as the childminder has a secure knowledge of the indicators of abuse and neglect and is

aware of what to do if she has any concerns. All required documentation is in place to promote good quality care.

Partnerships with parents and carers is strong. This helps the childminder to ensure that she meets the individual needs of each child in her care. The childminder provides parents with information when they first approach her. This is then ongoing through informal feedback at the end of the day, daily diaries, scrap books, photographs and the children's individual plans and progress records. The childminder has obtained consent to share information with other settings delivering the Early Years Foundation Stage, but this is still in its infancy.

The childminder is committed to offering a high quality service to the children and families using her setting. She has only started to use self-evaluation as a means of identifying her strengths and areas for development. For example, she wants to join the local childminding network and has arranged a visit with the local authority with this in mind. The recommendation raised at the last inspection has been fully addressed with all documentation now fully in place, protecting children's health and well-being.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children benefit from the childminder's detailed knowledge of their individual needs. This enables the children to build a strong, trusting relationship with her. This relationship enables children to become confident, independent and curious to try out new activities and experiences. The childminder's home is well organised to give children the freedom to move around her home, taking part in different activities. For example, children enjoy playing in the playroom with small world toys, building a track in the lounge and painting in the kitchen. Children thrive in this supportive and accessible environment.

Children are happy and relaxed in the childminder's company. They have independent access to a range of good quality resources, giving them choice in their play. The childminder has introduced systems to observe and assess the children as they play. These are supported by photographs and examples of their work. The childminder uses information gathered from these along with her knowledge of the children to meet their needs as they play. Children benefit from the childminder's enthusiasm and her interaction and involvement in their play. She encourages children's language development as she talks to them throughout the day. Children develop a love of books as they regularly snuggle up with the childminder to read books together. When the childminder has finished reading the story she encourages children to 'read' the story to her, encouraging recall. Children's maths skills are fostered as the childminder uses maths language during play activities and children confidently count items on the page in the story. The childminder encourages children to learn about diversity as they go to a singing and signing group each week. The childminder is encouraging the children to learn some basic signs to help them communicate with others.

Children learn the importance of a healthy diet. The childminder offers a range of healthy snacks and meals. Posters and activities help to reinforce which foods are

good for them. Children are encouraged to take part in meal times as they sometimes choose what they would like to eat and help to make their own pizzas for lunch. Drinking water is freely available to children during the day, ensuring they stay hydrated. Well-established routines for hand washing ensure that children learn about good personal hygiene. Children learn how to keep themselves safe as they regularly practise emergency evacuation procedures. This ensures they become confident with escape routes and routines. They learn how to stay safe when out walking as they wear high visibility jackets, hold hands, stop at the kerb and check the road before crossing. The childminder is a positive role model for the children. She has a calm and friendly manner. Children follow this lead and behaviour is good.

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

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action.

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.