

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	132901
Inspection date	24/03/2009
Inspector	Beverley Blackburn

Type of setting	Childminder
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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 1991. She is registered on the Early Years Register and both the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. She lives with her husband, who is also a registered childminder, and their three children in a semi-detached house in Bath. The house is within walking distance of the local schools and also the local shops, toddler groups and parks.

Minded children have access to the downstairs rooms of the house and upstairs for the bathroom and two bedrooms for children to sleep. The path area only around the rear garden can be used for outdoor play but the childminder also uses parks and play areas regularly.

The childminder's registration permits her to care for three children in the early years age group at any one time. She currently minds five children. The childminder holds a National Vocational Qualification at level 3. She is working towards becoming an accredited childminder. The childminder helps run local toddler groups and is a member of the National Childminding Association.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall, the quality of the provision is good. Children are cared for in a safe and caring environment, which promotes their welfare and learning development well. Children enjoy a positive experience of the Early Years Foundation Stage through a range of interesting activities provided by the childminder. This enables children to effectively learn and develop through play. The childminder meets the needs of the children in her care and attends to their individual requirements. She communicates well with the parents, shares and discusses with them the progress their children are making. She has made improvements since her last inspection which impact positively on the experiences for children and has plans in place for the future development of her provision.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- ensure risk assessment identifies aspects of the home that need to be checked on a regular basis and keep a record of these particular aspects and when and by whom they have been checked
- continue to develop an understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage in order to link the early learning goals to the six areas of learning and development so that all children's learning needs are appropriately met and they are effectively moved on to the next steps in their learning and development

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder has a strong commitment to ensuring all information, including the policies and procedures, are shared with the parents. The required documents are in place and are used effectively to ensure the welfare of the children. The childminder shows good organisational skills. She has a good understanding of child protection procedures and is confident in explaining her role and responsibilities should there be a concern.

The childminder appropriately supports the children's learning and development through play. Her home is organised so that she provides a good learning environment that effectively and efficiently meets the children's individual needs. The childminder has started to introduce into her practice the use of observation and assessment to identify learning priorities and to plan varied experiences for each child. However, her process for monitoring and analysing observations and assessments is not sufficiently developed in order to help her plan the next steps of learning and development for each child.

The childminder has begun to identify the strength of her provision, as well as aspects for improvement, such as undertaking further training to increase her knowledge and skills so that she can continue to provide good quality care and learning opportunities for the children. Her risk assessment ensures that the children's safety is maintained at all times, however, there is not a system in place to record identified risks and how they have been dealt with.

The childminder has established effective ways of communicating with the parents. She places importance on collecting and sharing information about the children in her care and this is evident in the consistency and continuity of care the children receive. She provides a welcoming environment where there is a two-way flow of communication. Positive feedback from the questionnaires demonstrates that parents are very happy with the level of care the childminder offers. Parents are appreciative of the fact that the childminder is minding with her husband and see it as a valuable experience for the children.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children are happy, settled and relaxed in the homely atmosphere. They have a good relationship with the childminder and interact well with her. They are well behaved and respond positively to the childminder's requests. There are suitable strategies in place to manage the children's behaviour effectively. Children receive good support from the childminder, which helps them to develop a positive sense of themselves and build their self-confidence.

Children enjoy regular outdoor exercise and outings, such as walks or visits to the local parks. They enjoy healthy and nutritious snacks and are encouraged to keep themselves hydrated by drinking regularly. As a result, children are learning about a healthy lifestyle. Children are learning to keep themselves safe, as the childminder teaches them how to be safe on the road and to develop good road

sense. She ensures the children are well supervised at all times, and when out and about the younger ones are securely strapped in their pushchairs. They regularly practise the emergency evacuation procedures and records are kept of each fire drill. The childminder demonstrates a high level of commitment to promoting and maintaining the children's safety.

Children can access a good range of toys and resources that are appropriate to their age and development. They move confidently around the rooms and choose what they want to play with. Children experience a range of activities daily, such as puzzles, craft activities, books, messy play or visiting the toddler's group, where they can interact with other children. They also enjoy physical activities, such as walking or playing in the park. The childminder supports the children's learning well, by providing a good environment that appropriately caters for all the children's learning and development needs.

The childminder is beginning to understand of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). She shows sound understanding of how children learn. She is beginning to routinely observe and assess their progress. Individual folders are kept on each child, which are shared with the parents. Children are making progress in the EYFS.

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?	3
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?	3

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

The provider confirms that the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register are: Met

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.