

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	401830
Inspection date	05/02/2009
Inspector	Alison Weaver
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 has been registered since 1989. She lives with her husband and adult son and daughter. They live in a house in Willingdon near shops, schools and parks. The whole of the ground floor, including a downstairs bathroom, is used for childminding. There are shallow steps into the house and to the outdoor area. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children under eight years at any one time, of whom no more than three may be in the early years age range. She is currently minding one child in this age group. She also offers care to children aged over five years to 11 years. This provision is registered by Ofsted on the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. The childminder attends the local carer and toddler group on a regular basis.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is satisfactory. Children are safe and enjoy their time with the childminder. She recognises the uniqueness of each child and works with parents to meet their welfare needs. However, she has not developed systematic assessment processes that involve parents and other providers to help ensure children are making progress in their learning and development. The childminder has taken adequate steps to evaluate her practices but has not started to implement any actions to address the areas of weakness.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- make systematic observations and assessments of each child's achievements, interests and learning styles in order to promote their learning and development
- ensure that children's next steps are being clearly identified and are used to plan relevant and motivating learning experiences that cover all six areas of learning.

To fully meet the specific requirements of the EYFS, the registered person must:

- obtain written parental permission for the seeking of any necessary emergency medical treatment or advice (Safeguarding and promoting children's welfare) 10/02/2009
- conduct, and regularly review, risk assessments for the premises, environment, equipment and for outings (Suitable premises, environment and equipment - also applies to both parts of the Childcare Register). 26/02/2009

The leadership and management of the early years provision

Children are safeguarded as the childminder is fully aware of her responsibility to identify and report any possible cases of child abuse or neglect. However, she has not met the requirement for the Childcare Register to have a written safeguarding policy. Most of the other required documentation is in place although the childminder has not met the requirement to obtain written parental permission for emergency medical treatment. The record of attendance also lacks clarity.

The childminder forms friendly and generally informal partnerships with parents. Overall, she ensures that she has the necessary information from parents to enable her to meet children's welfare needs. They are kept informed about their child's day through verbal feedback and the use of a care diary. There are few opportunities for parents and other providers to formally contribute to children's learning and development.

The childminder has begun to evaluate her childcare provision and has identified an area that she needs to improve. She is not secure in her knowledge of the Early Years Foundation Stage so has attended a few courses to help develop her understanding of how to implement it.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children make progress with the childminder but there is no assessment system in place to help support and promote children's learning and development. The childminder has begun to make some useful observations on individual children but has not linked these clearly to the stages of their development. She is aware of the need to extend children but has no robust process for identifying children's next steps for their learning and using them to plan for their continuing development across all six areas of learning.

Children play happily and free from harm in the child friendly environment. They enjoy a variety of activities such as water, sand and imaginary play. They learn about shapes and count as they play. They show good co ordination and control as they use different tools when playing with the dough. Children become absorbed and concentrate well at activities. They have fun playing different sorting and matching games with the childminder. She promotes their use of language well as she continually talks to the children about what they are doing. Children are encouraged to share their experiences and often talk about things they have done in the past. The childminder builds good relationships with the children so that they feel secure and confident. She is calm and caring and has appropriate strategies for managing any unacceptable behaviour.

Children's health is promoted by ensuring that the environment is kept clean and hygienic. The childminder works closely with parents to ensure that children have a healthy diet and plenty of drinks. They have daily opportunities to enjoy fresh air and exercise. The childminder teaches children about how to cross roads safely

when they go on outings. They learn about the wider world as they explore their world and find out about customs and dress in other countries.

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?	3
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	3
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	3

Leadership and management

How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?	3
How effective is the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement?	3
How well does the setting work in partnership with parents and others?	3
How well are children safeguarded?	3

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?	3
How well are children helped to stay safe?	3
How well are children helped to be healthy?	3
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	3
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	3
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:

Not Met (with actions)

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

Not Met (with actions)

The registered provider does not meet the requirements of the compulsory and or voluntary part/s of the Childcare Register.

To comply with the requirements of the compulsory part of the Childcare Register, the registered person must take the following action/s by the specified date:

- ensure a written statement of procedures to be followed to safeguard children being cared for from abuse or neglect is in place (Arrangements for Safeguarding Children - also applies to the voluntary part of the Childcare Register) 26/02/2009
- take action as specified in the early years section of the report (Suitability and safety of premises and equipment). 26/02/2009

To comply with the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register, the registered person must take the following action/s by the specified date:

- take action as specified in the compulsory part of the Childcare Register section of the report (Arrangements for Safeguarding Children) 26/02/2009
- take action as specified in the early years section of the report (Suitability and safety of premises and equipment). 26/02/2009

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.