

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	161841
Inspection date	25/02/2009
Inspector	Beverley Blackburn
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 1999. She is registered on the Early Years Register and both the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. The family live in a detached, four bedroom house, situated in a quiet area of Corsham, Wiltshire. The minded children have access to all areas within the house. The garden area is accessible for supervised outdoor play.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association. Her registration permits her to care for three children in the early years age group at any one time. She currently minds seven children on a part-time basis. The childminder uses the local facilities, including the local park. There are no pets in the household.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is good. Children enjoy a positive experience of the Early Years Foundation Stage through a range of stimulating activities provided by the childminder in a safe, caring and supporting environment. 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 effectively. She has identified areas for improvements, and she is keen to progress the quality of her provision by undertaking additional training.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- ensure all risk assessments include outings and visits

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The organisation of the childminder's service is very effective as she has all the required policies and procedures in place. Her information on the children is up to date and her documentation is comprehensive. She organises her home well and provides a good learning environment that effectively and efficiently meets the children's individual needs. The childminder has a good knowledge of child protection procedures and is confident in explaining her role and responsibilities should there be a concern. She is aware of the signs and symptoms of child abuse and has a clear policy in place should there be any concern or allegation of child abuse. She is proactive in keeping herself up to date with current issues regarding safeguarding children by attending training courses.

The childminder is skilful in risk assessing her home environment. She carries out monthly checks, ensuring items such as furniture, equipment, toys and the smoke alarms are safe and in good working order. This ensures the children's safety is

maintained. However, her records of risk assessments do not include the assessment of outings and visits.

The childminder has evaluated her provision and her practice and has identified areas for improvements. For example, using role play/puppets show to help children express their feelings and to learn to empathise with others; also using the feedback from the parents to improve the children's skills for the future.

The childminder has a good relationship with the parents, where communication is regularly two ways. She places great emphasis on gathering and sharing information about the children in her care. As a result, there is consistency and continuity in the care the children receive. This helps the children to become confident learners with their individual welfare needs well met.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children are happy and relaxed and are having fun learning in a stimulating and safe environment. They enjoy being with the childminder and feel comfortable in her company. There is good interaction between the children and the childminder; children spontaneously show their affection by giving hugs and cuddles. The childminder is a good role model; she is calm, patient and acknowledges the children's good behaviour by praising them. She knows the children well, and takes time to understand their needs and respond accordingly. This helps to promote children's confidence and self-esteem.

The childminder takes a very positive approach to her childminding. She competently supports the children's learning and uses many opportunities during their play activities to encourage language development, through constant conversation, especially with the younger children. She is proactive in developing their creative skills, their social interaction, their understanding of the wider world and their physical skills. Children can easily access a good range of toys and resources, enabling them to be independent in their choices. They experience a wide range of activities on a daily basis, such as, books, craft activities, puzzles, soft play, messy and physical play. She encourages the babies to experience the feel of different textures, to crawl and explore their environment. Children enjoy their play as the childminder often engages in their imaginative games. Children are allowed to develop at their own pace. The childminder plans interesting activities according to the ages and stages of their development. She ensures that she maintains a balance between adult-led and child-led activities.

The childminder has an exemplary knowledge of the Early Years Foundation Stage and shows a very good understanding of how children learn and develop. She monitors each child's achievements towards the early learning goals and routinely observes and assesses their progress. She plans individually for each child, ensuring she takes account of their interests and what they enjoy doing. This allows her to provide for their additional learning and developmental needs; as a result, children are making good progress in their learning and development. The childminder has good links with other community groups that offer the Early Years Foundation Stage framework. This enables her to share ideas and improve the

children's learning experiences.

The childminder helps children understand about healthy eating through fun activities such as making a display poster and through discussions. Children regularly enjoy healthy and nutritious snacks and meals. Children's health is actively promoted and they are encouraged to learn about healthy lifestyles. They have access to regular outdoor exercise such as walks, visit to the local park and playing games in the garden. Children play in a clean and comfortable environment where they are protected from infection through the implementation of effective hygiene procedures. Children learn to keep themselves safe, as the childminder teaches them to be safe on the road by ensuring they know how to cross safely. She ensures the children are well supervised and their safety is maintained at all times.

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?	1
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.