

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	161712
Inspection date	11/03/2009
Inspector	Susan Esther Harvey
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).

Children only attend this setting before and/or after the school day and/or during the school holidays. The judgements in this report reflect the quality of early years provision offered to children during those periods.

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 1990. She lives with her husband and one adult child in Cricklade, Wiltshire, close to shops, parks, pre-schools and schools and public transport links are nearby. The downstairs part of the childminder's house is used for childminding.

The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and on the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time, and is currently minding four children in the early years age group.

The childminder collects children from the local school and attends toddler and music groups on a regular basis.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is good. The childminder cares for children in an inclusive, welcoming and comfortable environment. Children are encouraged to play with a good selection of toys and activities which support their learning and development. Effective links with parents ensures that children's individual care needs are well supported. The childminder recognises the uniqueness and individuality of each child and closely reflects on her own practice. She identifies areas for continued development in order to further support the good outcomes she provides for children.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- ensure that a risk assessment record includes all areas of the premises

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder organises her daily routine well to provide children with effective learning opportunities in a secure environment. She provides the children with a good selection of toys and resources. They know what is available to use and independently choose what they wish to play with. Children's well-being is fully supported through the childminder's sound understanding of child protection procedures.

The experienced childminder has an effective network of communication in order to work with parents. This includes verbal contact on a daily basis and a sharing of information, which includes photographic evidence for parents regarding the activities and time spent in the care of the childminder. The childminder is committed to increasing her professional development by attending training

courses, which improves her practice and outcomes for children.

The close relationship with the childminder enables children to feel secure in her company. Young children approach the childminder with ease when needing support and she is proactive in being involved in their play. Children's individual needs and personal experiences are supported by the childminder's clear understanding of their background and needs. Story books and resources enable children to celebrate the similarities and differences in a diverse society. Visits to the local shops, music and toddler groups gives children an understanding of the community in which they live. Children remain safe at all times, both on and off the premises, through the close supervision of the childminder. However, she has not fully developed the risk assessment record to include all areas of the property, which has an impact on some safety issues for children. Policies and procedures are shared with parents and securely stored in the children's individual pack. Parental consent is obtained where needed and appropriate records are kept regarding accidents and administration of medication.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children are very happy and settled in the care of the childminder. They enjoy participating in activities, such as drawing pictures with a selection of coloured pencils and they skilfully mould and create models from play dough. Young children sing as they play with cars and small world animals and learn to count objects up to three and identify colours with ease. They initiate activities for themselves as they learn to thread coloured string through a pattern of holes. As a result, children are relaxed as they learn through their play activities. The childminder has a firm understanding of each child's developmental needs. She is fully aware of child development and provides an all round experience for the children in her care. Children benefit from learning about the world around them while out walking in the countryside and playing in the park. Visits to toddler and music groups with the childminder gives the children chance to socialise with others.

Children's health is supported by a balanced diet provided by the childminder. Young children benefit from home-cooked meals at lunchtime and regular drinks of milk and water. They learn about the importance of preventing the spread of infection through the childminder's robust routine for washing hands and nappy changing.

Children are cared for attentively by an experienced childminder. Children are beginning to take responsibility for their own safety. They take part in an emergency evacuation drill and help to tidy away toys after use. While out walking children learn how to cross the road safely through the childminder's clear instructions. Appropriate behaviour from young children, such as saying 'thank you' and 'please', is promoted by the childminder's gentle approach and positive use of praise and encouragement.

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?	3
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?	3
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.