

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	100939
Inspection date	09/01/2009
Inspector	Ruth Tharme

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 2000. She lives with husband and their two children aged 11 and nine years. Their home is a detached house in the Northway area of Tewkesbury. The whole of the property is available for childminding purposes. There is a ramp available to provide access to the house if required. There is an enclosed garden available for outside play. There are shops and local amenities within walking distance.

The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and both the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. There are currently 12 children on roll, five of whom are in the early years age group. Children attend for a variety of sessions throughout the week.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association. The childminder is working towards a recognised level 3 diploma.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Children make good progress in all aspects of their learning and development. They are happy and settled, and enjoy the learning opportunities and experiences on offer. There are effective arrangements in place to promote children's safety and well-being, and strong partnerships with parents mean that they are well informed and involved. Self-evaluation is well-established and is effective in identifying and addressing areas for future improvement. Action taken has a positive impact on outcomes 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 children's actual hours of attendance are clearly recorded

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The provision is carefully organised to ensure that children's safety and well-being are actively promoted. A broad range of policies and procedures are in place and effectively implemented for the smooth running of the setting. A daily register is maintained, but the actual times of arrival and departure are not recorded, consequently, there is no accurate record of which children are present at any given time. A thorough risk-assessment programme operates successfully to identify and address potential hazards. Checks on the premises and equipment are carried out daily and robust contingency arrangements are in place to deal effectively with emergency situations, such as the sudden illness of the childminder.

A good knowledge of children's background and needs, together with effective systems for observing children and monitoring their progress means that the childminder is highly effective in ensuring that all children are included and have their needs met. Activities such as the celebration of various festivals helps children to value diversity and understand the society in which they live. Partnerships with parents and other professionals are well established and ensure that there is a good two-way flow of information between all those involved in children's care. The childminder regularly liaises with teachers in school and playgroup workers to ensure a consistent and beneficial approach for all children.

Effective steps are taken to evaluate the provision for children's welfare, learning and development. The childminder takes care to involve parents and children in the self-evaluation process, actively seeking their views, in person, or via questionnaires. Recommendations made at the last inspection have been carefully addressed, resulting clear improvements, in children's safety and in hygiene standards.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children's learning and development is progressing well as activities and experiences are planned and adapted appropriately to meet the needs of individual children, offering them sufficient challenge and interest. A well established programme of observation ensures that the childminder knows the children in her care well and is able to map their progress accurately towards the early learning goals. Children are provided with activities and experiences that actively promote all areas of their learning and development. This is because the childminder has a clear knowledge and understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage and how children learn. Their confidence and self-esteem are high as they know their efforts are valued. They enjoy reading as they make use of readily available books and texts, and learn about the natural world as they care for family pets or feed wild birds in the garden.

Children's health is actively promoted. They learn healthy practices such as hand-washing, and learn to make healthy choices at meal times as there is a strong emphasis on good nutrition. Physical activities such as the daily walk to school and regular outdoor activities such as gardening or bike riding ensure that children benefit from fresh air and exercise. Well-considered precautions, including steps taken to minimise risk, help to promote children's safety. For example, they practise evacuation drills regularly so they know what action to take to keep themselves safe in an emergency.

Children are happy and settled in the childminder's care. Her warm and affectionate approach puts them at ease in her company. The range of activities on offer is broad and takes full account of children's interests. This means that children are enthusiastic about taking part and enjoy experiences such as blackberry picking, sharing stories and craftwork. The childminder's high expectations and clear boundaries mean that children behave well. The strong partnership with parents ensures a consistent approach which actively benefits the

children. Information is freely shared which promotes effective partnership working that means children receive good quality care and support.

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

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

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted.

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.