

Inspection report for early years provision

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| Unique reference number | 112694 |
| Inspection date | 07/01/2009 |
| Inspector | Amanda Shedden |
| 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 1990. She lives with her husband and their three adult children in a four bedroomed, detached house in Waltham Chase. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children aged under eight years. She is registered on the Early Years and compulsory Childcare registers. She is currently caring for seven children on a part time basis, five of whom are in the early year's age range.

Minded children have the use of the ground floor of the home, although the lounge is only used for sleeping young children. They also have access to the enclosed garden.

The family keeps pets, both inside and outside the home

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Children's welfare and learning are promoted successfully due to the childminder's understanding of their individual needs. As a result the children are happy, settled, safe and secure. All children are included as the childminder ensures that the resources and activities are available to all, making adjustments to ensure that each child can fully participate helping them make good progress in all areas of development. The childminder monitors her provision and undertakes regular training to ensure the children are offered a stimulating and well organised environment.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- further develop systems to share information with parents allowing them to be fully involved in identifying the child's next steps (assessment)

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

- for each type of outing ensure that there a full risk assessment (safeguarding)

06/02/2009

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder is proactive in ensuring that her knowledge and skills are developed by undertaking training that benefits the care and education of the children. This enables her to evaluate her practice and make changes where necessary. For instance she has recently made changes in how she presents the resources to the children to keep them stimulated and interested whilst allowing

them to self-select. The childminder has a secure understanding of child protection and parents are fully aware of her responsibilities.

The childminder builds good relationships with the parents who are fully informed about their child's daily experiences. Achievements are recorded and shared with the parents and they have access to their child's records at any time. However, the parents are not yet able to make written contributions to their child's records about their next steps. There are procedures in place to discuss with other providers the child's progress. Parents are given copies of the policies and procedures ensuring they are aware of the childminders practice.

Children's welfare is promoted; procedures are in place to ensure all children are aware of what they need to do if an evacuation was necessary, parents and children are aware of who would care for the children if an emergency arose. Risk assessments are in place for inside the home however, there are no risk assessments in place for outings. Children are aware of the rules outside for instance, when walking they know they must hold on or stay within the boundaries given and wait and look both ways before crossing any road with the childminder.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children are happy and secure in the childminder's home which is welcoming to them and their parents. The main playroom has a mixture of commercial posters and the children's work displayed giving them a sense of belonging. Children are encouraged to become independent in their self-care skills. In the bathroom there are posters reminding children to wash their hands, each child has their own towel which is hung next to a photograph of themselves to ensure they use the correct one. They help themselves to drinks which are in different bottles to ensure no cross infection and children self select from the range of resources which are displayed in clear boxes allowing the children to see what is inside.

There are clear house rules in place which are shared with the parents and children. The childminder knows the children well and is skilled at intervening before any behaviour becomes an issue. The children's behaviour is very good, they share the resources and the time of the childminder who is a good role model; she praises the children frequently building on their self-esteem. She encourages the children in their manners; they ask to get down from the meal table and know to say please and thank you at the appropriate times.

Children are making good progress towards the early learning goals. The childminder observes the children and keeps records of their achievements and identifies the next steps for each individual child. However, this information is not discussed with the parents to allow them to contribute their knowledge of their child. The children enjoy a wide range of adult led and child initiated activities. Children's spoken language is developing well as the childminder talks to the children continually introducing many concepts such as mathematical language during routine activities for instance, when cutting up the fruit for snack children were helped to cut it into halves then quarters then sixths. Younger children were encouraged to count how many pieces there were. Children are encouraged to

write and recognise their name or make their mark. The childminder has made her own resources to support the children, for instance, there are photographs of each child and they are encouraged to identify which child it is and match it to a card with their name on.

Children enjoy a range of creative activities, they become engrossed in the activity concentrating and persevering. They play well together discussing the snowmen they make out of the play dough, the childminder supporting them by providing additional resources such as flour so they pretend it is snowing. The childminder extends their play by asking open ended questions about snow and how does it melt. One child stating it is the 'sun's fault' the discussion then extends about the clothes you need to wear in different weathers.

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

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| 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

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| 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

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| 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

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.