

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY231217
Inspection date	20/01/2009
Inspector	Claire Sheldrake
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 2002. She lives with her husband in an a semi detached house in Wembdon, Bridgwater.

The whole of the downstairs is included in the registration. A lounge, playroom, dining room and kitchen are used by the children, and there is a downstairs bathroom. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and both the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children under eight years, and currently has three children attending who are within the early years age range and a further three children, who are within the age range of the compulsory part of the Childcare Register.

The family have a dog, three cats, two lizards and some fish.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The childminder effectively supports children to make good progress in their learning, providing a welcoming environment and a variety of valuable experiences to assist them in their journey through the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). Her practice is inclusive, she competently recognises children's individuality, their characters and their needs, and this ensures that children's uniqueness is fully supported.

Children's health, welfare and safety is assured through good levels of adult support and interaction, and a sound knowledge of protecting young children, although some documentation to support this is missing.

The childminder is reflective in her practice, to ensure children's individual needs are met, however she has no plans as yet, to show how she will implement improvement in the future.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- introduce a system to gain written consent from parents to administer medication, in the event of their child becoming ill during the day
- develop a record of the risk assessment and review it regularly, to ensure children's safety

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder's home is well organised and is set up for children with a variety of good quality and developmentally appropriate resources, enabling them to have fun, make progress and enjoy their learning.

The childminder is pro-active in providing a range of experiences for children, taking them to toddler groups, music and gym sessions and swimming each week. This introduces the children to their community and the wider world, and helps

them to socialise with other children and manage new environments.

The children are protected. The childminder has an effective system in place to ensure that all persons over the age of sixteen, who may have access to the children, are suitable to do so. She is confident about safeguarding children, and has a good understanding of her responsibility to protect children, and to record and report information to the relevant agencies.

The childminder is currently first aid trained and has a suitable first aid kit for home and away from the premises, to ensure children's health and safety. Written consent forms have been sought from parents to cover any emergency treatment needed for a child, and for permission to take children on outings, however written medication consent is missing.

The childminder ensures that the environments that children play in are safe and that the equipment they use is suitable. She is vigilant to look for any hazards, for example before going out into the garden, however this is not maintained as a record to show when, and by whom it has been checked.

Strong links have been developed with parents to support the children.

Information gathered when children start, identifies their interests, needs, preferences and routines, and this helps children to settle and feel secure, but these do not include information of their stages of development and learning.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The childminder has a good knowledge of how children develop and learn. She can accurately describe where she feels the children are in their development now, and her focus to enable and support them, to make progress in taking their next steps. For example, when helping children to build on their confidence using sounds, and attempting their first words.

The children are happily engaged in well resourced activities which have been carefully planned. They enjoy experiencing the water play, feeling the water as it runs through their hands as it is poured from a jug, and using early calculation skills when finding out which items float and which ones sink. The children enjoy the close interaction shown by the childminder who engages them with open ended questions, and offers new ideas such as pouring the water from a jug through a funnel. The children are surprised and intrigued, as they look into the funnel and find that it is now empty.

Children's language skills are effectively promoted at every opportunity. The childminder is careful to ensure that all children understand what she is saying, and she repeats the children's attempts at first words, to reaffirm their efforts and help build up their vocabulary.

Children's emotional well being is well fostered. The children are settled and are eager to experience as many activities as possible. The children are able to lead their own choices of play and the childminder is quick to support them, for example finding new resources to start a creative activity at the small play desk. The children are able to see photographs of themselves, and their friends on the play room wall, and examples of their creative work help them to feel that they belong.

Children's health is effectively supported, they are introduced to essential hygiene routines such as hand washing, and blowing noses. The childminder supports these routines by good example, using gloves to change nappies to reducing any

risk of cross infection, and washing her hands afterwards.

The childminder has taken steps to ensure children remain safe. She carries out visual checks to ensure the environment is safe, and regularly checks to see if toys and equipment are suitable for the ages of the children present. However this information is not currently recorded anywhere as a written document. She helps the children to learn about their own safety, reminding them not to climb on toys or furniture in case they fall, and taking care when eating, using small mouthfuls and blowing the food when it is hot.

Partnerships with parents are strong, and this ensures that children are cared for according to their parents wishes and consistency can be encouraged. Good links are made with the teachers at school to enable information to be shared between them and the parents using the childminder as the connection.

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.	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?	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
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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

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action.

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.