

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	109790
Inspection date	26/01/2009
Inspector	Anne Mitchell
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 1996. She lives with her husband and two of her children in Merley. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding, as well as one bedroom on the first floor for children to sleep. There is a fully enclosed garden for outdoor play. The family have a pet rabbit.

The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register, as well as the voluntary and compulsory parts of the Childcare Register. A total of six children under eight may be cared for at any one time. There are currently eight children on roll. Of these, three are in the early years age group. The childminder also cares for children over the age of eight.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association, and a local childminding group.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Children are making very good progress in their learning and development. The childminder meets their needs effectively because she liaises closely with parents and carers, and knows the children very well. There are good systems in place to monitor the provision and the childminder is committed to continued improvement, to maximise positive outcomes for children.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- continue to develop opportunities for younger children to make independent choices in their play.

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

- ensure that Ofsted is informed about any changes in persons living in the childminding premises and that appropriate checks are completed (Suitable people)

10/02/2009

The leadership and management of the early years provision

Very clear documentation is kept up-to-date and confidentially. Children's health and welfare are effectively supported through clear records of medication and accidents. Partnership with parents and carers is good. Daily diaries clearly show children's activities and achievements and are shared with parents, carers and other provisions. Children's home routines are discussed with parents from the outset so their routines can be followed to ensure a consistent approach. The

welcoming environment, with posters, information leaflets, photographs and information about current projects, helps to keep parents informed about the provision.

The childminder holds a Nursery Nursing qualification and is a Paediatric nurse. She has attended some additional training to keep her updated in childcare issues. She ensures children are well supervised in the presence of unchecked adults, but has failed to notify Ofsted of recent household changes as required.

There are secure and ongoing systems in place to monitor the provision effectively. The childminder has recently started written self-evaluations. All recommendations from the last inspection have been effectively addressed. She is considering systems to involve parents in her self-evaluation and continually develops and improves her practice.

Children are safe in the childminder's care because there are clear and comprehensive written risk assessments in place. Daily checks are completed to ensure all areas of the house are safe. The childminder has attended child protection training and has clear policies in place regarding safeguarding children. She has a secure knowledge and understanding of how to identify possible abuse, what to do and where to seek further advice and support. The childminder is clear about her responsibility to protect children from harm and neglect.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children are highly motivated and eager to learn because the childminder plans activities that interests and engages them. They enjoy a very good level of support and interaction, and are making significant progress towards the early learning goals, given their starting points. The childminder is skilled at enabling children to think for themselves and solve problems, through her use of open-ended questioning. Children are extremely independent in their play and personal care. They use scissors with skill and co-ordination during a variety of craft activities. They enjoy a broad range of well planned play experiences which cover all areas of learning. They keep and feed caterpillars and monitor their development from caterpillar to pupa, and look forward to seeing them emerge as a butterfly. They enjoy well-read stories and participate with enthusiasm. Children make cakes from scratch, weighing and measuring the ingredients. They learn about the seasons and hibernation, and make hedgehog collages to support their learning and understanding.

Younger children have free access to all areas of the ground floor and the childminder provides a range of play. However, opportunities for younger children to self-select are sometimes limited. Children demonstrate excellent levels of concentration for their age and stage of development. They make a Chinese dragon for Chinese New Year with egg boxes, ribbons, feathers, wool and tape.

Photos and documentation clearly show that all areas of learning are covered and are at the child's level of interest and understanding. The childminder has cared for many of the children since babyhood so she knows them extremely well. Topics

are based around children's interests and enthusiasms, so they remain interested, excited, and eager to learn. The childminder completes well documented 'Learning Journeys' for each child. Clearly written activity, observation and planning sheets give details of resources, areas of learning covered, opportunities for evaluation, risk assessments and next steps for children's development.

There are good systems in place to help children learn about keeping themselves safe. Wrist bands with names and contact details are used on outings and children learn about road safety and stranger danger through sensitive reinforcement by the childminder. Children's health is well promoted through secure hygiene routines, and even the youngest child proudly shows the childminder her clean hands after using the toilet. Children enjoy fresh fruit and are provided with drinks throughout the day. They have daily opportunities for fresh air and exercise through local outings, feeding the ducks and visits to the park.

Children's behaviour is very good. They enjoy lots of praise and encouragement and a high level of positive interaction. The childminder is a good role model, thanking children for good behaviour and speaking to them with respect.

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?	1
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?	1

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

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.