

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	142588
Inspection date	24/03/2009
Inspector	Carol Cox

Type of setting	Childminder
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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 1989. She lives with her husband, two adult children and her younger child aged 15 years. They live in the town of Yeovil, Somerset. The ground floor is used for childminding which includes an adjoining play area, dining room and kitchen. Toilet and sleeping facilities are provided on the ground floor. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently caring for four children under the age of five years and two school-aged children on a part-time basis. The childminder takes children to local toddler groups. The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and a local childminding support network. She holds an early years NVQ Level 3 qualification.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is good. The childminder uses her experience and knowledge of how children learn and develop to help them make good progress. The childminder works in partnership with parents and others to ensure their individual health and welfare needs are successfully identified and met. The childminder has started to make informal evaluations of her provision and has identified some areas for improvement. She demonstrates her capacity for continuous improvement through her effective implementation of the Early Years Foundation Stage.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- continue to promote children's learning and development through effective identification of next steps in learning based on clear assessments of children's achievements and progress
- further develop the system to monitor and evaluate the quality of the provision and identify areas for development

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder organises her provision very efficiently. There are clear and well written policies and procedures in place to safeguard children and promote their health and welfare. For example, children's individual needs are identified with parents and recorded clearly to ensure they are met. There is a good policy in place to record those adults authorised to collect children and all necessary parental consents are obtained. The childminder makes detailed risk assessments

of her home, garden and outings to ensure that children are safe at all times. She has a rigorous system in place to record parental consent and guidance when medication is to be administered.

The childminder is well qualified and is now committed to improving her practice through regular training. She has started to monitor the quality of provision and has identified some areas for improvement. For example, although she has begun to implement the Early Years Foundation Stage she is aware of the need to consolidate her system to record children's achievements and use these records to plan future learning. The childminder values each child as an individual and works closely with parents and others to promote their learning and development.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The childminder uses her good knowledge of each child in her care to promote their care, learning and development. She has begun to keep well evidenced records of children's progress. These records demonstrate that children enjoy a good balance of activities to ensure their progress in all areas of learning. Parents are invited to contribute to these records but few do at the moment. The childminder observes children carefully and plans activities based on their particular interests. For example, two young girls are fascinated by dolls, the childminder helps them find buggies and feeding bottles so they can role-play being mummies. She talks to children about their activities and helps them develop speech and language through modelling clear pronunciation and helping them form simple sentences. Children benefit from regular walks and trips in the community where they talk about their observations of the world. The childminder uses such activities to promote counting and naming colours of the different cars they see and children enjoy finding bugs in the gardens. The childminder has started to build working relationships with other care providers and acts as a contact point for some parents.

The childminder listens carefully to children and responds quickly and sensitively to their needs. For example, on returning from pre-school she knows that children are tired and hungry so she quickly prepares their lunch. Children learn good hygiene routines and are protected from the spread of infection through the use of individual flannels and towels. The childminder's home is comfortable and she ensures resources and toys are made easily accessible so children begin to make choices about their play. There are clear and well documented records of each child's care and learning needs and all necessary consents have been obtained from parents. All records are shared in confidence with parents. The childminder further protects children through her good knowledge of child protection issues. She shares her clear child protection procedure with parents and follows Local Safeguarding Children Board guidance. Children benefit from the simple boundaries set by the childminder and behave extremely well. She addresses any behaviour issues with sensitivity and helps children learn that their actions may affect others. Children thrive in the kind and knowledgeable care offered by the childminder.

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

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.