

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	141129
Inspection date	12/01/2009
Inspector	Carole Argles
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 1997. She lives with her husband and two daughters aged 14 and 12 years in a village in North Dorset. All ground floor areas of her house are used for childminding. The children also sometimes use a computer on the first floor landing. There is an enclosed garden for outside play. The family have two dogs and a cat. There is sloped and stepped access to the premises.

The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register to care for six children aged under eight years. Of these, no more than three children may be in the early years age group. No overnight care is provided. Currently the childminder is providing part-time care for two children aged under two years and four children of school age, one of whom is in the early years age group.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The children are happy and well cared for in a welcoming and safe home environment. They form good relationships with the childminder who supports their learning and development effectively. She is careful to meet their individual requirements and is establishing effective partnerships with their parents. She ensures that all children are included and develop a caring attitude towards others. The childminder is committed to further improvement of the quality of care she provides.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- continue to develop ways of increasing the involvement of parents and others in the observation, assessment and planning cycle

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

- ensure the certificate of registration is displayed
(Documentation)

13/01/2009

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder implements effective policies and procedures and maintains all the records necessary to promote the children's welfare and safety. She has a sound understanding of how to safeguard children from harm or abuse and ensures that

they are never alone with people who have not been vetted. The childminder carries out thorough risk assessments of her premises and before undertaking any outings and takes suitable precautions to minimise the likelihood of accidental injuries. She checks all areas of her home daily before use. The children's health is well supported and effective measures are in place to reduce the spread of infections. For example, each child has an individual named towel and beaker. Nutritious home-cooked meals and healthy snacks of fruit are available for children and they are encouraged to drink plenty of water. The childminder works closely with parents to make sure that any special dietary requirements are respected.

The childminder has a positive attitude towards the further development of her childminding service. She keeps up to date with changes in childcare by attending relevant training and has developed a good understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). Issues highlighted at the last inspection have been addressed and this has increased the children's safety and independence. The childminder evaluates the quality of her provision, gaining parents' opinions through questionnaires. This gives her a sound appreciation of areas for continued improvement.

Comprehensive and clear information is available to parents so that they understand what is being provided for their child. Although the childminder has a useful notice board for parents, she does not meet the requirement to display her registration certificate. Daily discussions and detailed information in diaries keep parents well informed about their child's day and any notable achievements and progress. There is an effective process to help new children settle quickly and the childminder requests details about their usual routines, interests and likes. This good exchange of information promotes continuity in the children's care and ensures they are settled and secure.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children develop warm and relaxed relationships with the childminder who is attentive to their individual needs and routines and knows them well. They are secure in her care and babies happily go to sleep rocked in her arms. There are high levels of interaction between the children and the childminder. The babies make their wishes known to her because she is responsive to their moods and communication. The childminder organises her home well, providing areas for more messy and creative activities. A variety of resources are stored in boxes so that the children can select them independently. This allows them to make choices about what they do and to follow their own interests. The children develop good self-esteem because they are praised for their achievements. Their artwork is valued and sometimes displayed on the wall. There are age-appropriate expectations for children's behaviour and the childminder works closely with their parents to achieve a consistent approach. For example, they may agree to use a star chart so they can both reward children when they behave well.

The children make good progress in their learning and development and take part in a wide range of activities which are adapted so that all can join in. The childminder makes sure that activities provide appropriate levels of challenge and

interest for each child. For example, babies and younger children explore finger paints, 'gloop' and playdough whilst older children make models with plaster, wood and cardboard boxes. The childminder regularly observes the children, recording their achievements and taking photographs of them at play. She uses this information to help her decide how she will support the next steps in their learning. Although she keeps parents informed about their child's progress, at present they are not involved in monitoring and planning their development with her. The childminder helps children with their school homework and, to increase continuity in their learning, she is beginning to establish links with other EYFS providers that some of the children attend.

There are many activities that help children discover how to keep themselves safe and healthy. All children learn good hand hygiene routines and they take part in monthly fire drills so they know how to act in an emergency. The childminder provides games and activities about a wide variety of topics including dental care, healthy eating and road and kitchen safety. They are encouraged to develop a healthy and active lifestyle. They frequently play outside in the garden and they go to indoor play centres and for walks. Their physical development is well supported and there are many age-appropriate resources to help young children develop good hand-eye coordination. The children are encouraged to think positively about themselves and to be accepting others in society. They take part in many activities to help them find out about different cultures and traditions in the wider world.

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?	1
How well are children helped to be healthy?	1
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

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.