

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number EY239371
Inspection date 23/03/2009
Inspector Lorraine Sparey

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).

Children only attend this setting before and/or after the school day and/or during the school holidays. The judgements in this report reflect the quality of early years provision offered to children during those periods.

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 was registered in 2003 and lives with her husband, adult son, and two children aged 17 and nine years in a house in Somerford within walking distance of local schools and shops. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The childminder occasionally works with an assistant. The family have several pets including a dog, two tortoise, a rabbit and chickens.

The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. A maximum of six children may attend at any one time and there are currently nine children on roll, of these three are in the early years age group. On occasions the childminder works with an assistant and may care for a maximum of six children, all of whom can be in the early years age group. The childminder has an Early Years qualification and is a member of the National Childminding Association and the local childminding group. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall, the quality of the provision is good. Children are confident, motivated in their learning and making good progress in all areas of their development. They freely choose from a wide range of resources and play opportunities and enjoy a broad range of outings to support their enjoyment. The childminder is proactive in ensuring that all children are included and their individual needs are effectively met. The childminder has made good progress in addressing the recommendations from the last inspection demonstrating her ability to maintain continuous improvement.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- develop systems to share information on children's progress with other settings that the children may attend
- continue to develop opportunities for the information parents provide about children's progress to be used to inform the next steps in children's development

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder develops positive relationships with the parents. She has devised useful questionnaires to establish parents' views of the setting and any suggestions they have that may improve their child's time with the childminder. The results demonstrate the childminder's commitment to ensuring good communication between all parties and providing a wide range of activities to support their

children's development. Each child has a daily diary recording the day's activities and information regarding children's welfare such as sleeps and nappy changing. The childminder has devised a simple form to support parents in providing information on their child's starting points. However, the systems for sharing information with other settings that children attend are not successful. The procedures to utilise information parents provide on their children's progress are not fully effective. Therefore, there is not a cohesive approach by all involved parties to children's learning to fully maximise their progress.

The childminder has devised effective systems to monitor and evaluate the provision. She has addressed previous recommendations with regard to completing a first aid course. This means children's health and safety is well promoted. The childminder is extremely committed to training to increase her knowledge and understanding and to share good practice. She is currently completing a course to develop her knowledge of equality and opportunity. The childminder demonstrates clear knowledge and understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) framework.

Children are safeguarded because the childminder places a high emphasis on keeping children safe whilst providing a stimulating environment that children are able to freely and safely explore. Risk assessments are completed and demonstrate the childminder has considered all aspects of children's safety both within the home and whilst on outings. The childminder has all the appropriate documentation to support children's general health and well-being. She has attended training to promote her understanding of safeguarding children from harm and neglect. Effective procedures are in place which include policies and procedures that inform parents of her role and responsibility.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children are motivated and eager to participate in the broad range of activities and play opportunities available. They benefit from the childminder's positive interaction and good use of open-ended questioning to encourage them to problem solve and develop their thinking and ideas. The childminder plans to incorporate individual children's needs and their interests. Observations and assessments provide information on children's progress and the next steps in their development are effectively planned for. The childminder identifies a child enjoys finger painting and plans opportunities for them to experiment with different textures such as water, foam and sand.

Children enjoy a wide range of outings such as fruit picking, trips to the forest, visits to a local beach and education centre. They are invited to suggest additional places that they would like to visit such as a farm which the childminder organises.

Children benefit from the childminder showing a genuine interest in what they have to say and do. She clearly knows the children well and is able to successfully engage them in activities and learning opportunities. A child shows interest in cars and trains. The childminder provides a good range of trains and track to enable the child to build their own train track. Their language develops as the childminder

encourages them to talk about the different trains and carriages and what cargo they are transporting. Children enjoy counting and problem solving as they build the track and count the trees and carriages.

Younger children enjoy lots of cuddles and are encouraged to listen to the story. The childminder encourages children to identify various aspects of the story and relates it to them. For example, the childminder talks with the child about how their daddy likes fishing. The child smiles, acknowledging the childminder's comments.

Children's health is well supported. They take part in the 'Change 4 Life' scheme, increasing their awareness of healthy lunch options and the importance of physical exercise. Children quickly learn about promoting their own safety. The childminder gives good explanations and enables children to take controlled risks. Children have opportunities to learn about the wider world through discussion and projects. A parent explains about a festival from their native village in France. Children participate in charitable events enabling them to consider the needs of others and value differences. Children's behaviour is good given their age and stage of development. The childminder provides a positive role model and is consistent in her approach encouraging children to respect the boundaries.

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.