

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY313357
Inspection date	19/01/2009
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 2005 and lives with her husband and two children, in the village of Corfe Mullen, Dorset. The whole of the ground floor is available for childminding, as well as the master bedroom on the first floor for children to sleep. There is a garden for outdoor play at the rear of the property.

The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register, as well as the voluntary and compulsory parts of the Childcare Register. A maximum of five children under eight may attend at any one time. There are currently seven children on roll, all of whom are in the early years age group.

The childminder is a member of the local childminding group.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Children are happy and confident in the care of the childminder, and making good developmental progress. Their individual needs are met as the childminder knows them well and recognises when they need additional support. However, at times, activities are not always sufficiently adapted to include all children.

There are secure systems in place for the childminder to evaluate her practice to continually improve the learning and play experiences for children in her care.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- continue to ensure children's development is considered during planned play activities so they can participate fully
- provide opportunities for parents to view and contribute to children's observations and records.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

Required documentation that supports children's health and welfare is in place and shared effectively with parents. The childminder has developed a range of policies and procedures that reflect her practice, and records are kept securely to maintain confidentiality.

There are good systems to monitor the childminder's practice. She shares ideas with other childminders through regular attendance at local group meetings, and uses checklists to ensure she has discussed everything with parents, and they have received all required documentation. Self-evaluation is done through work on her ongoing National Vocational Qualification, and through reviewing developmental records and children's observations. The childminder demonstrates a commitment

to improving outcomes for children through training, and regularly updates her skills and knowledge.

The childminder has developed a strong partnership with parents and carers. As well as daily discussions, written information about the setting is available. Daily journals for each child provide a clear exchange of information. Journals are also shared with other childcare provision so children receive consistent care. Newsletters provide information about planned activities and outings.

Regular and thorough risk assessments ensure children are safe while they play in the childminder's house, and on outings. The childminder has completed training on safeguarding children and has a good understanding of how to protect children from harm and neglect. Written policies on child protection are provided for parents from the outset.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children enjoy a good level of support and interaction throughout the day. The childminder is skilled at helping the children to share and take turns. Children's behaviour is good and the childminder is a good role model with a positive approach using praise and encouragement. The childminder provides children with warm and caring emotional support through cuddles, hugs and tickles throughout the day, responding sensitively to their emotional needs as they arise.

Children's learning and development is successfully supported through enjoyable play activities in the home, on outings and in the community. They attend music and movement sessions the childminder runs, and visit local farms and parks. A broad range of play in the home keeps children happy and well occupied. They enjoy using a broad range of percussion instruments and the baby becomes focused as he attempts to turn the rainmaker and listen to the sound. Children learn simple maths and problem solving through everyday activities. The post arrives and the child collects it, as the childminder asks: 'How many letters did we get?'. Children have very good relationships with each other and with the childminder. The baby laughs as he watches an older child draw large circles on the paper. Written observations on each of the children give a developing picture of children's progress, and helps the childminder plan for the next steps of their development, although these do not include parents' comments or observations made at home.

Children's health and safety are promoted well. They enjoy healthy snacks such as crackers and fresh and dried fruit. Children are encouraged from an early age to wash their hands and use their own individual towels to limit the spread of infection, and are taught why it is important to cover their mouths and noses when they cough and sneeze. The childminder provides a good role model to promote children's understanding of hygiene routines through explaining that she needs to wash her hands before she prepares lunch. A daily checklist is used to identify and address risks in the house and garden. Children learn about keeping safe on outings, as road safety is reinforced as they look for cars and hold onto the buggy.

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
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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 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.