

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	403743
Inspection date	29/01/2009
Inspector	Karen Cooper
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 2001. She lives with her husband and three children in a house in Great Barr, Birmingham. The location is convenient for parks, shops and schools. The whole of the ground floor and first floor bathroom of the childminder's home is used for minding. The house is fully accessible. There is a secure garden available for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children under eight at any one time and is currently looking after nine children, five of whom are in the early years age group. The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and on the voluntary and compulsory parts of the Childcare Register.

The childminder is able to take and collect children from local schools and pre-schools and regularly attends the local parent/carer and toddler groups.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Children are happy and settled in the childminder's care. They have access to a range of toys, activities and outings which help them to make steady progress in their learning and development. The childminder is fully aware of each child's individual needs and through discussions with parents she establishes friendly and supportive relationships. All practice is inclusive. The childminder is making wider links with other professionals within the community. She is an experienced childminder and is beginning to use systems to demonstrate children's progress.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- improve resources with regard to promoting positive images of diversity
- obtain written consent from parents to seek emergency treatment and prior to administering medication to children
- improve planning and assessments to ensure children's interests are met.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder organises her day around the needs of the children and includes many opportunities for visits to local toddler groups and other outings. She has drawn up several policies and procedures which she ensures are shared with parents. The childminder holds a relevant early years qualification and has completed a range of additional training to ensure she has developed her knowledge and understanding of how to promote children's welfare, learning and development. The childminder demonstrates a commitment to continuous improvement and is enthusiastic about her role.

Children are safeguarded because the childminder carries out written and visual checks on the premises, toys and equipment to ensure they are safe for purpose. The childminder shows a clear understanding of her responsibility to keep children safe from harm and neglect and of the procedures to follow in the event of a child being abused. She is fully aware of the importance of protecting children when outside the home or when around unchecked adults and has appropriate procedures in place for the safe collection of children.

Partnership with parents is open and friendly and the childminder provides a flexible service to meet their needs. She talks openly with parents to seek their views on her service and has formed positive partnerships which are reflected in the letters and cards received from past and present parents. Daily discussion ensures parents are kept informed about their child's progress and development and photographs keep them informed of the activities they have been involved in. The childminder has established links with other pre-school groups and the local childminders' group.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children are confident in the childminder's care and are well-settled and content. The children are valued and the childminder helps build their self-esteem by frequently providing positive support and praise, while managing behaviour appropriately. Children benefit from a range of toys, activities and outings. As a result, they make steady progress towards the early learning goals given their capability and starting points.

The childminder regularly talks to parents so she gets to know about the children's likes and dislikes and is aware of each child's individual needs. She is beginning to use her observations along with photographs to monitor the children's progress. However, this is not yet fully developed. Children are developing their confidence and beginning to use their independence as they access toys of their choice. However, there is a limited range of resources to ensure children develop a positive attitude towards people with similarities and differences. Children enjoy using their imagination during role-play when they use toy telephones to talk to the childminder and their own family. Children benefit from good individual attention from the childminder and are learning to share and to tidy away toys.

Children develop an appropriate understanding of how to stay safe, for example, the childminder reminds them to sit properly on the furniture in case they should fall off and hurt themselves. There are appropriate arrangements in place to care for children who are ill, which are shared with parents. The childminder is trained in administering first aid. However, consent to administer medication and to seek emergency treatment is not obtained from parents to ensure children's health is fully protected. Through daily routines children are encouraged to wash their hands after toileting and before eating. Food is provided by parents, which the childminder ensures is stored appropriately. Drinks are made available to ensure children remain hydrated.

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?	3
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	2
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	3

Leadership and management

How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?	3
How effective is the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement?	3
How well does the setting work in partnership with parents and others?	2
How well are children safeguarded?	3

Quality and standards

How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?	3
How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?	3
How well are children helped to stay safe?	2
How well are children helped to be healthy?	3
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	3
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	3
How well are children helped develop skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being?	3

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 received by Ofsted since the last inspection that required the provider to take action.

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.