

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number EY221719
Inspection date 29/01/2009
Inspector Brenda Joan Flewitt

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 was registered in 2002. She lives with her husband and three children aged 11, nine and five years in Blandford, Dorset. The ground floor is used for childminding, which includes a lounge, kitchen-dining room and toilet facilities. There is an enclosed section of the rear garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. A maximum of three children may attend at any one time. There are currently three children on roll in the early years age group. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Children are cared for in a safe and secure family home where the childminder exchanges information with parents to enable her to meet most individual care needs. However, children's health is not promoted adequately, as the childminder has not maintained a current first aid certificate. Children participate in a suitable range of activities, both inside and out, which help them learn through play. The childminder has no effective system for evaluating her practice, to identify areas for development and when requirements are not met.

Overall, the early years provision requires significant improvement. The registered person is given a Notice to Improve that sets out actions to be carried out.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

To comply with the requirements of the EYFS the registered person must take the following action by the specified date:

- ensure a current first aid certificate is maintained (Safeguarding and promoting children's welfare) (also applies to both parts of the Childcare Register) 28/04/2009

To improve the early years provision the registered person should:

- develop self-evaluation methods to ensure that all requirements are met and identify areas for development
- develop an observation and assessment system to help identify each child's stage of development, and use this to plan their progress towards the early learning goals
- establish links with other settings that children attend, to share information to promote their learning and development.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder implements some policies and procedures that promote children's health and safety. However, children's health is compromised as the childminder had not realised that her first aid certificate had expired over six months ago. She carries out risk assessments so that children play in a safe environment both in the home and on outings, but she is not clear about recording when she has done so. The childminder has a satisfactory understanding of safeguarding children, which includes how to recognise signs and symptoms of abuse and the procedures to follow with concerns.

The childminder exchanges information with parents on a daily basis to help meet children's individual needs with regards to their welfare. She supplies some written policies to help clarify aspects of her provision. There is no clear system for sharing knowledge with parents, or other settings that children attend, about the children's progress towards the early learning goals.

The childminder has no effective methods for evaluating her practice and ensuring that all requirements are met. She has not updated her knowledge with regards to implementing the Early Years Foundation Stage; consequently, not all requirements are met. Aspects of children's health and safety have improved since the last inspection as the recommendations have been partially addressed. The system for recording medication is clear and the unsafe part of the rear garden is not used by the children.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children are happy, settled and secure in the care of their childminder. They are welcomed into the family home where they develop good relationships with the childminder, her family and each other. Children are confident to make their needs known and are encouraged to be independent in practical tasks such as putting on their own socks and shoes. Children learn to respect each other and behave well. They are encouraged to take turns, display good manners and pack away toys when they have finished with them. The childminder offers praise and encouragement for children's effort and achievements, which helps boost their self-esteem. Children are involved in a balance of adult-led and self-chosen activities and can access a suitable range of toys and resources, which are rotated to maintain their interest. For example, two boys enjoy using their imagination as they play with toy cars and a garage, they use language to organise their play and act out imaginary and real life situations. The childminder encourages children's use of number in everyday activities such as counting the segments of an orange, or how many squirrels can be spotted during a walk in the woods.

Children learn the benefits of a healthy lifestyle through everyday activities and discussion. They practise good procedures for their own personal hygiene and start to make healthy choices in what they eat. Trips to the play park give children opportunities for developing large muscle skills as they play on equipment such as swings, slides and climbing frames. When they are out and about, children learn

safe routines for crossing roads and the dangers of animals and people who are unknown to them.

The childminder knows the children she cares for as individuals and seeks information about their care needs. She joins in their play and talks with them to help them develop vocabulary and an understanding of the world around them. However, she has not yet developed a clear system for observing their play and assessing their progress towards the early learning goals. Although the childminder is promoting children's learning in some areas, her limited knowledge of the EYFS means that she is not effectively planning for each child's next steps to help them make the best progress they can.

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?	4
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	3
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	4

Leadership and management

How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?	4
How effective is the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement?	4
How well does the setting work in partnership with parents and others?	3
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?	4
How well are children helped to stay safe?	3
How well are children helped to be healthy?	4
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:

Not Met (with actions)

The provider confirms that the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register are:

Not Met (with actions)

The registered provider does not meet the requirements of the compulsory and or voluntary part/s of the Childcare Register.

To comply with the requirements of the compulsory part of the Childcare Register, the registered person must take the following action/s by the specified date:

- take action as specified in the early years section of the report 28/04/2009

To comply with the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register, the registered person must take the following action/s by the specified date:

- take action as specified in the early years section of the report 28/04/2009

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.