

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	141044
Inspection date	04/03/2009
Inspector	Bridget Copson
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 1994. She lives with her three children aged 20, 17 and three years in a residential area of Blandford Forum, Dorset. The whole of the ground floor of the house is used for childminding, except for the study. A first floor bedroom is available for sleeping. There is an enclosed rear garden for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children under eight years. She is currently caring for three children under eight, all of whom are in the early years age group. The provision is registered by Ofsted on the Early Years Register and on the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. The family keep guinea pigs and two dogs.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall, the quality of the provision is inadequate. The childminder does not have knowledge of the Early Years Foundation Stage. As a result, children's progress is not promoted well and not all requirements are met to ensure children's welfare is safeguarded appropriately. However, children are otherwise included fairly within the setting and see a positive reflection of themselves as individuals to promote their sense of belonging. The childminder has made some improvements to the quality of care she provides. However, she does not have any systems to evaluate the quality of her provision to further promote outcomes for children and ensure on-going improvements are made.

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:

- carry out a full risk assessment for each type of outing and keep a record of all risk assessments (Safeguarding and promoting children's welfare) 05/04/2009
- undertake observational assessments for all children to ensure their individual learning needs are met and planned for (Organisation) 05/05/2009
- plan and provide appropriate experiences to promote all children's individual development in all areas of learning (Learning and development) 05/05/2009

To improve the early years provision the registered person should:

- develop systems of evaluating the quality of care and learning to improve outcomes for children

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder does not have knowledge of the Early Years Foundation Stage welfare requirements. As a result, not all records are used to ensure the safe and effective management of her child care provision. She does not keep a record of any risk assessments and does not conduct risk assessments for the outings children are taken on. These are breaches of requirements. Otherwise, the childminder does have a suitable knowledge of safeguarding issues to support her in protecting children. In addition, she provides a safe and secure environment within her home. She dedicates her time to children, providing interaction and support. As a result, children are happy and demonstrate a sound sense of well-being in her care.

The childminder does not have systems in place to monitor the quality of care she provides and to reflect on her practice. She has not updated her own knowledge and skills since the last inspection. As a result, not all requirements are being met and limited improvements have not been made to promote outcomes for children.

Parents are provided with the childminder's policies and procedures to support them in making an informed choice about her provision. They complete records and agreements to ensure their child is cared for according to their wishes. Parents are kept informed through daily discussion and displays. However, they are not fully involved in their child's learning and development. For example, the childminder does not seek information from them regarding their child's starting points and does not involve them in children's development within the Early Years Foundation Stage.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children are provided with a suitable range of play provision and a balance of active and quiet play to support some areas of their learning and development. Their interests are promoted and they have some opportunities to choose independently. However, the childminder does not have knowledge of the Early Years Foundation Stage learning and development requirements. Children's learning is not planned to promote their individual needs within the six areas of learning. In addition, no observational assessments are undertaken to ensure their next steps of learning are planned to promote on-going progress. These are breaches of requirements. As a result, challenges are not always suitable to engage them and promote development.

Children are happy and settled in the childminder's care. They move around freely and have fun in their play. However, activities do not always engage children and they sometimes lose focus. Children communicate appropriately to express themselves. For example, talking about what they are modelling with dough and in their role play. Children are encouraged to count aloud and are learning about shapes. However, there are limited opportunities for them to problem solve.

Children enjoy using their creative skills. For example, they explore paints with their hands to make prints, they model dough with tools and make paper collage pictures. Their work is displayed for them and parents to admire. They also enjoy music, dancing and role play. Children generally behave well and are learning what is expected of them, such as sharing, taking turns, being kind to others and good manners. The childminder provides calm and consistent interaction and guidance to promote positive attitudes.

Children's health is promoted suitably through the provision of a clean and hygienic environment, regular drinks and nutritious snacks. They learn about managing their own personal hygiene through regular hand washing and using anti-bacterial hand gel on outings. Their physical development is promoted each day with activities indoors and in the garden. In addition, they visit toddler groups, 'Cool Play' indoor soft play centre and the local parks each week. Regular social events locally support children in developing a sound sense of community. Children are learning about keeping safe through safe play house rules and road safety on walks.

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?	4

Quality and standards

How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?	4
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?	3
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	4
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?	4

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.