

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number EY319171
Inspection date 16/03/2009
Inspector Susan Tuffnell

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 2005. He lives with his wife and their three children aged two, four and 13 in a residential area of Dunstable, Bedfordshire. The whole of the ground floor of the premises and two bedrooms and a bathroom on the first floor is used for childminding. There is a rear garden for outside play. The premises are accessible by a low step to the entrance. The family have a dog, two guinea pigs and fish.

The childminder works with his wife who is also a registered childminder at the same premises. Along with his wife they provide care every weekday during term-time and school holidays. The childminders are registered on the Early Years Register and on the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. When working together at the same premises, they may provide care for a maximum of six children on the Early Years Register, and currently four children attend on flexible contracts and one child attends on the compulsory part of the Childcare Register. There are three children attending on the voluntary part of the Childcare Register. All the children share the same facilities. The childminder is registered to care for children overnight.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and works in partnership with parents, carers and other professionals. He walks or drives to local schools, pre-schools and toddler groups to take and collect children.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall, the quality of the provision is good. The childminder provides a generally safe and welcoming environment that supports children very well in the Early Years Foundation Stage. The close partnership with parents and the stimulating and varied activities contribute significantly to meeting individual children's needs. Children are highly valued because the childminder has an outstanding attitude to inclusion. He successfully promotes diversity and equal opportunities through the children's daily routines, activities and equipment. An effective self-evaluation process identifies a clear understanding of priorities for improvement to strive to provide the very best care and education for the children.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- carry out regular fire evacuation drills and record details in a fire log book.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder manages the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) provision well. He demonstrates a positive attitude to continuous improvement through evaluating

his practice and as undertaken the process of self-evaluation. The childminder continues to improve his understanding and knowledge and has attended training for the EYFS framework. Children are safeguarded because the childminder takes necessary steps to protect and promote the welfare of children through secure safeguarding procedures and effective policies.

The childminder provides an truly inclusive service that promotes children's welfare requirements. He understands and engages in reflective practice, respecting diversity and valuing a child as a unique individual. Consequently, inclusive practice is promoted so that all children have their welfare requirements met very well. Parents, carers and other professionals are closely involved as partners in promoting children's learning and development. For example, parents are kept informed of their child's achievements through excellent policies and procedures and the regular sharing of verbal information and development records. The childminder works as part of the Community Childminding Scheme and successfully engages with many different professionals to provide the best care for children.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children are supported very well as they access a good range of interesting and challenging play materials and equipment. Information is collected from parents about children's interests, needs and capabilities and the childminder uses this to inform initial assessments. Focussed observations are carried forward from children's starting points and the next steps of learning are identified.

Children are offered a balanced range of activities and are encouraged to make choices and instigate play opportunities. They explore their local environment as they collect leaves in the woods, visit parks and help with the shopping. Interesting and imaginative outings are planned during school holiday times such as visits to children's farms, the zoo, safari park and the butterfly farm to look at different animals and their habitats. Older children enjoy train rides to the seaside or visit museums and watch the street entertainers in London. Children decide to play in the garden and enjoy cleaning the equipment with sponges and cloths. Children take care to wash the steps to the slide thoroughly and use long sweeping gestures to get the water up the chute. Excellent support from the childminder enables children to persevere at activities and finish them. Children thrive in an environment that stimulates their senses and challenges their abilities. Activities are arranged that give children extensive opportunities to discover the wider world. For example, multicultural awareness is experienced as children play with ethnic dolls, listen to stories about different cultures and religions, and role play with the extensive range of dressing-up clothes. Children enjoy learning about different creatures as they stroke tame ferrets and walk them on a lead. They look closely at stick insects and are able to handle them and learn about their habitats. Older children entertain the others with puppet shows and younger children are beginning to show care and consideration for their peers as they share resources and play co-operatively together. Children are provided with opportunity to develop their competence in communication, language and literacy. They are encouraged to become skilful communicators as they engage in conversations with adults and peers, make marks for different purposes, such as art and craft work

and join in with stories, songs and nursery rhymes. .

Children are cared for in a generally safe and secure environment because the childminder ensures that all areas are checked before children arrive at the premises. Young children are beginning to understand safety as they learn about road safety and avoiding hazards such as tidying up the toys. Well recorded medication and accident forms ensure that children's welfare is monitored and parents kept fully informed. A fire evacuation procedure has been devised and fire drills are carried out with the children. However, there are no records to ensure that evacuations are effective in raising children's awareness and confidence in a real fire situation.

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?	1
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.