

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	112881
Inspection date	09/07/2009
Inspector	Susan Mann
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 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 1997. She is registered on the Early Years Register and on both the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. She lives with her husband and four children in the village of Marchwood. The whole house is registered. Children usually use the ground floor of the house. There are sleeping and toileting facilities downstairs and a secure garden for outside play. The family has a pet cat.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children under the age of eight at any one time, of which two may be in the early years age range. She is currently minding one child in the early years age range. There are local schools nearby, and the childminder walks to these to take and collect children.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is satisfactory. The childminder gives appropriate support to children to meet their individual needs and she ensures they make reasonable progress towards the early learning goals. Some elements of the provision have not been suitably updated in line with the Early Years Foundation Stage and two welfare requirements have been breached. However, these do not have a significant or current impact on the children or the care they receive. The childminder demonstrates some commitment to continuous improvement in her practice, with particular regard to children's learning and development. The childminder fosters a suitable partnership with parents so that they are informed about the provision.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- extend safeguarding policy to include current contact details for the Local Safeguarding Children Boards and a procedure to follow in the event of an allegation made against the childminder or family member for the welfare of children
- develop systems of self-evaluation to identify the setting's strengths and priorities for development that will improve the quality of all aspects of the provision for all children
- continue to develop assessment systems in order to match the observations of children to the expectations of the learning goals and to identify learning priorities for each child in each area of learning.

To fully meet the specific requirements of the EYFS, the registered person must:

- attend an approved paediatric first aid course (Suitable people) 27/11/2009
- inform Ofsted of particulars of any significant event 23/07/2009

(Suitable people)

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder takes care to meet the needs of children in her care. She is experienced and provides a relaxed and welcoming environment. She has organised her home so children have plenty of space to play indoors and outside. All areas of the home are checked to make sure there are no known dangers to pose a risk to children in her care. The childminder has sufficient policies and procedures to meet requirements. She has not informed Ofsted of a recent event which affects her conditions of registration and this is a breach of welfare requirements. However, this has not had a negative impact on the care offered to children currently on roll and she has made sure that she cares for the correct number of children.

The childminder demonstrates reasonable knowledge of how to safeguard children's welfare and to seek advice to report concerns in order to protect children satisfactorily. However, her existing written procedures contain outdated contact details and they do not contain sufficient information about action to take should an allegation be made against her or one of her household. This means that correct action might be delayed.

Documentation is properly maintained to provide an accurate record. For example, the attendance register is completed each day and there is a suitable procedure for recording accidents. The childminder has made some evaluation of her practice. She has introduced learning records and planning into the setting to help promote children's development. All issues raised at the previous inspection have been fully addressed. However, this self-evaluation does not cover every area of the practice, which means that continuous improvement is not consistently effective. The childminder does not hold a current first aid certificate and this is a breach of welfare requirements. However, she has sufficient knowledge to care for a child appropriately should they become injured or unwell whilst in her care. She is attending a suitable course in the near future so that children receive adequate medical care when needed.

The childminder is committed to meeting children's individual needs. She demonstrates a kind and relaxed attitude and children are happy and settled in her care. The childminder works closely with parents to help children settle and progress. This means that children receive consistent experiences at home and with the childminder, which nurtures their confidence and well-being.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children enjoy their time with the childminder. They choose resources which hold their interest and they play happily, concentrating on activities for reasonable periods of time. The childminder makes accurate observations on their learning and development which help chart their progress through the EYFS. She plans

activities which meet their needs and interests so that they are motivated to learn through their play. In the assessment records, the childminder notes activities that will help them with their next steps of learning, although these are general and do not clearly state the child's priorities for development. This means that planned learning is not sufficiently focussed for consistently good progression in all areas of learning.

Children enjoy a suitable variety of activities, such as art and crafts, or playing with musical instruments. The childminder provides appropriate interaction at the child's own physical level, speaking clearly to help develop language and listening skills. For example, a child sits with the childminder on the floor, playing with large building bricks. At first, the child is content to watch the childminder start to build a house, but he soon joins in, putting blocks onto a tower and putting figures inside the house. The childminder talks to him throughout the activity, explaining what they are doing and modelling language for him to copy.

Children learn to keep themselves safe and healthy in suitable ways. They enjoy healthy snacks and foods. Children wash their hands after having their nappy changed, to develop hygienic habits. Children enjoy regular walks and outdoor play to foster their physical well-being. When out, children learn about road safety and staying safe. Children enjoy their local environment through walks around the village, and learn about the wider world through using resources which reflect diversity and talking about celebrations that are important to them. The childminder takes time to listen to children and gives them encouragement, which helps them to become self-assured.

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?	3
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?	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?	3
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?	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

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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 27/11/2009
- take action as specified in the early years section of the report 23/07/2009

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 27/11/2009
- take action as specified in the early years section of the report 23/07/2009