

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	400967
Inspection date	07/07/2009
Inspector	Lindsay Helen Dobson
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 has been registered since 1996. She lives in a detached house with her husband and two adult children. The ground floor of the house is used for childminding purposes and consists of a kitchen with dining play area. There is toilet facilities on the ground floor. The childminder uses two bedrooms on the first floor for children to sleep. Children have access to a fully enclosed back garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and both the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register to care for a maximum of six children under eight years. There are currently two children on roll, both of which are in the early years age range.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall, the quality of the provision is satisfactory. Effective organisation enables children to participate in a varied range of activities. The childminder considers how young children learn from activities and follows their interests when providing resources. She monitors children's progress, however, she is not currently identifying and planning for their next steps in learning. Sound communication with parents ensures that children's individual needs are met. The childminder has not updated her first aid certificate and systems for evaluating the service she provides are not yet established. Some records are in place to support children's care and safeguard their welfare, although some of the necessary documentation that is required to be kept has not been identified or implemented, for example, a record of risk assessments.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- develop systems to self-evaluate the provision to promote continuous improvement
- identify and plan for children's next steps in learning
- practice regular evacuation drills with children and record the details in a fire log book of any problems encountered and how they were resolved.

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

- ensure a record of risk assessment is in place which clearly states when it was carried out, by whom, date of review and any action taken following a review or incident (Documentation)(also applies to both parts of the Childcare Register) 21/07/2009
- complete an appropriate paediatric first aid course (Qualifications, training, knowledge and skills)(also 30/11/2009

applies to both parts of the Childcare Register).

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder organises her home to ensure that children have suitable opportunities to choose their play and be independent. All furniture, equipment, toys and resources are in good condition. She ensures daily routines take account of children's individual needs, providing activities both within the home and outdoors in the local community. The childminder has taken necessary steps to minimise potential hazards in her home and whilst on outings so that children are safe. However, she does not keep a record of risk assessments for the premises and garden or for each type of outing she undertakes with children to ensure they are fully protected. This is a breach of regulations.

The childminder builds sound and supportive relationships with the children's parents so that they are made aware of her provision and their child's well-being. The childminder obtains and records relevant details about individual needs and agrees contracts for care ensuring children are looked after in line with parents wishes. She keeps parents informed about their children's welfare through informal discussions each day.

Children are protected as the childminder has a suitable understanding of the procedures for safeguarding children; she is aware of the signs and symptoms of abuse and what to do in the event of any concerns. However, the childminder does not currently have an up-to-date first aid certificate, which is a breach of regulations. She informally obtains feedback from parents about the service she provides. However, systems to self-evaluate the effectiveness of the provision have not been implemented to effectively bring about improvements.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The childminder provides a calm and welcoming environment where children are happy and content. They enjoy themselves and have formed firm friendships with the childminder and her family. Children have the freedom to explore and discover. They learn how to keep themselves safe as the childminder reminds them about safe practice, for example, road safety. However, children are not made aware of the steps to take in an emergency as they do not practise the emergency evacuation procedure. The childminder takes children on a variety of outings, such as visits to the local park and toddler groups. These outings and visits enable the children to develop an awareness of their local community and to mix and socialise with others. An appropriate range of freely accessible resources encourages children's developing knowledge and understanding of the wider world.

Children have regular opportunities for physical activity, for example, they enjoy visiting local soft play areas and have access to the childminder's safe and secure garden. They enjoy kicking the football, riding on wheeled toys and bouncing on the space hopper. The childminder uses everyday routines to ensure the children

understand healthy eating and good hygiene, such as talking about why they need to wash their hands before snack time and engaging them in baking activities. Children have free access to drinks so that they can help themselves when they are thirsty.

The childminder interacts well with the children. She extends children's knowledge and understanding through asking appropriate questions, for example, as she reads books to the children she asks them to find different pictures and to count the things they see. This supports their language development and encourages their observation and counting skills. Children are able to make their own choices and decisions from the suitable range of resources on offer. This enables children to initiate their own play and ideas, supporting their developing independence.

The childminder maintains records of children's progress, which contain photographs and short written observations. However, the observations lack sufficient evaluation to support identification and planning for children's next steps of learning. The childminder demonstrates a suitable understanding of how the activities she provides encourage and challenge children's learning and development.

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 (CR8) 21/07/2009
- take action as specified in the early years section of the report (CR4). 30/11/2009

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 (CR8) 21/07/2009
- take action as specified in the early years section of the report (CR4). 30/11/2009