

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	222523
Inspection date	05/05/2009
Inspector	Margaret Elizabeth Roberts
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 1996. She lives with her husband in Cambridge. The ground level of the home is used and there is an enclosed garden for outdoor play. The childminder takes and collects children from local schools where she is developing links to support the care she provides for the children. The family have no pets. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children under the age of eight years. There are currently three children on roll, all of whom are in the early years age range. The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and on both the voluntary and compulsory parts of the Childcare Register.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is satisfactory. The childminder provides appropriate care for children in the early years age group, as they enjoy warm relationships with her and her family. Whilst children enjoy a suitable range of activities to promote their development, the childminder recognises her weaknesses in delivering the educational programme. Although a safe environment has been created, some documentation and resources require updating. Children benefit from the relationships that the childminder builds with their parents and other professionals ensuring that the needs of children can be met.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- improve knowledge of the early learning goals and educational programme set out in the Early Years Foundation Stage
- ensure that the first aid box has appropriate contents
- ensure that all record keeping is accurately maintained, paying particular attention to medication recording, children's personal details and risk assessments.

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

- maintain a daily record of the hours of attendance of the children looked after on the premises (Documentation).

29/05/2009

The leadership and management of the early years provision

Children's welfare is promoted through familiar day-to-day routines where they are made to feel at home in the childminder's care. Written policies and procedures, which are shared with parents, inform them of the service that is provided and help the childminder to carry out her work. Resources are rotated on a regular

basis ensuring that children have access to a full range of opportunities. Risk assessments are completed, which helps to minimise hazards to children, but they do not include the date that they are conducted. Children can be safeguarded because the childminder has a sound understanding of the procedures to follow should she have concerns that a child might be neglected or abused.

The childminder has made improvements since her last inspection, for example, she has attended further training to update her knowledge on safeguarding children. She is also seeking advice to enable her to self-evaluate her provision, so that outcomes for children can be improved. All children are included in this warm, homely environment where they are able to play safely. Parents state how pleased they are with the care the childminder provides for their children, who benefit from the friendly relationships that are being made and the links made with other professionals to ensure continuity of care.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children are provided with a range of opportunities to help them make satisfactory progress towards the early learning goals. The childminder has attended training to familiarise herself with the learning and development requirements set out in the EYFS. Daily diaries completed for all the children in her care form part of the assessments and are shared with parents. However, these assessments do not cover all of the early learning goals because the childminder is not yet fully conversant with the educational programme. Children access resources that are appropriate to their age and stage of development. Babies freely choose from activity centres, small ride on toys and large building blocks. They enjoy making noises by banging the blocks together to make 'music'. Children approach adults with confidence passing items to them and waiting for them to be returned. Times are set aside for listening to stories, planting seeds in the garden and messy play. Many opportunities for enjoying outdoor play helps to contribute to a healthy lifestyle.

Whilst attention is given to keeping children safe, some of the childminder's record keeping is not always accurately maintained. For example, children's hours of attendance are not completed daily, which means that they cannot always be accounted for. Children's medical needs are sometimes compromised because the medication recordings are not always dated and the contents of the first aid box are minimal. Positive and appropriate techniques used by the childminder when dealing with behaviour management ensures that children learn about right and wrong. The warm relationships that the childminder and her family have with the children supports their emotional security and helps them to play happily.

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 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 actions as stated in the Early Years Register (Records to be kept).

29/05/2009