

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY292268
Inspection date	06/04/2009
Inspector	Tracy Bartholomew
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 2004. She is registered on the Early Years Register and both the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. She lives with her two children who are both over school age in a house in Didcot which is close to local amenities. Minded children have access to the ground floor with sleeping facilities provided upstairs. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for six children under eight years at any one time and is currently minding eight children on a full and part time basis, three of these children are within the early years age range. The childminder has a dog.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The overall judgement is good. The childminder has an effective setting which ensures that the children's needs are well met. All children receive a warm welcome whilst in the care of this childminder, and clearly enjoy the wide range of activities available. The childminder provides a wide range of experiences for the children to ensure that they are thoroughly engaged throughout their day. These are tailored to follow and develop the children's progress within the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). The childminder offers an inclusive setting, she ensures the activities and resources available promote the children's welfare, learning and development. The childminder reflects on her provision through use of the self evaluation form which demonstrates and shows strong capacity to improve her provision further.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- further consider how children's development can be recorded to allow information on each child's stage of development be easily ascertained
- further extend the daily hours of attendance to incorporate all children's exact times of arrival and departure

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder takes a committed and enthusiastic approach to her role. She welcomes all children to her home equally and promotes their welfare, learning and development fully regardless of their backgrounds. She reflects on her practice and accurately identifies areas for improvement, seeking guidance and support to further develop her setting. She organises paperwork methodically however does not record all children's exact times of hours of attendance. Nevertheless all children are marked within her daily diary and safeguarded very well.

The childminder fully risk assesses her home, garden and outings effectively, which in turn safeguards the children's welfare well, she organises her home and time effectively to meet the children's individual care needs well. The childminder ensures that all children receive good one to one support throughout their chosen activities, activities are tailored to the individual needs of the children which in turn assists their all round development. The childminder has sound developmental records in place, however these do not effectively show how information on each child's stage of development is ascertained. There are good working relationships with all parents, she ensures that the parents are fully included in the practice that she offers their children and backs this with a daily written record.

The childminder safeguards children well. Her daily practices reflect her policies, such as promoting and maintaining children's personal hygiene routines consistently, through her regular use of hand antibacterial gel. All required documentation is kept confidentially; this includes parental permissions and a register of attendance.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children are happy and clearly enjoy being in the company of the childminder. They move confidently around her home, happily choosing what they want to do from the good range of safe and suitable toys and resources on offer. The childminder knows the children well and provides activities which clearly match their individual and development well, for example gluing and sticking with glitter. The childminder does plan activities for the children. However she finds that the children are more engaged and gain a more fruitful learning if they have chosen the activity, which is where the childminder shines in her knowledge of each child and demonstrates her knowledge of the EYFS. She covers a wide range of the six areas of learning within the chosen game, for example for feeding the dogs, the child's mathematical development and communication is progressed as they talk about how bowls are needed, their sizes and what the dogs have to eat

The childminder encourages the parents to be fully involved in the learning and development of their own children; she enlists their knowledge of their children, so as to get an in-depth picture of the children's abilities. In line with this she looks at how she can progress their learning and extend all areas. Children handle scissors and cutters well whilst using these for playdough, and the use of further implements is used to develop the children's skills whilst making jam tarts. The childminder is careful not to over-direct children, allowing them choice within activities and to complete them to their own levels of achievement and satisfaction, this was evident when a child was playing with castle.

Children develop their emerging literacy skills well, learning rhymes, hearing letter sounds and experiencing a good range of books and stories, they clearly love books and access their favourite monster book re-creating their own words from memory. The childminder provides an enthusiastic role model, speaking clearly and taking a positive approach. This helps young children develop their language skills and be confident to try new experiences, thus laying the foundations for their future economic wellbeing.

Children behave very well. This is because they understand what is expected of them by childminder. Children spend a good amount of time outdoors daily, they enjoy walks and outings that help them learn about the wider world well, the children have good use of the garden which provides them with a wide range of challenging physical play equipment.

Children are properly safeguarded. They play safely because the childminder understands the principles of risk assessment, and maintains their safety well. She remains vigilant both in and outdoors. She teaches children sensible 'rules' to help them keep themselves safe. Good hygiene routines are consistently promoted and children self mimic this in their play with the dolls, washing their hands after visiting the toilet. Their good health is maintained well with individual needs acknowledged and met. Children use a clean home environment, in which the danger of cross-infection is minimised effectively.

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?	2
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?	3
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
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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.