

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	105582
Inspection date	05/05/2009
Inspector	Susan Victoria May
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 1999. She lives with her daughter aged 14 years in Slough, Berkshire. All areas of the childminder's home are used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children under eight years at any one time, of whom no more than three may be in the early years age range. She is currently minding three children on a part time basis in this age group. She also offers care to children aged over five years to 11 years. This provision is registered by Ofsted on the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register.

The childminder is prepared to take and collect children from local schools and pre-schools. The family have a dog, cat and fish as pets.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of care is satisfactory. The childminder offers children opportunities to develop emotionally, socially and physically in the warm, friendly environment she provides. Children benefit from the good relationships she builds with parents and other adults involved in the children's care. The childminder supports children's welfare and safety, recognising and minimising risks as she follows comprehensive policies and procedures. Children have their individual interests and needs taken into account, which creates an inclusive environment. The childminder completes reflective practice sheets to evaluate her provision, identifying strengths and areas for development. This benefits the children and increases their learning opportunities.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- continue to develop systems of observation and assessment in order to inform future planning

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

- ensure there are effective systems in place to inform Ofsted of any significant event which is likely to affect the suitability of the early years provider to ensure that adults looking after children are suitable to do so (Suitable people) (also applies to the compulsory part and voluntary part of the Childcare Register)

31/05/2009

The leadership and management of the early years provision

Children have access to a range of resources that help them to develop independence as they make choices and select their toys. Routines that support the children's safety, care and development are well established with some activities planned in advance, such as outings or craft activities. Children's welfare is safeguarded through the childminder's clear knowledge of child protection issues. She has a good understanding of the signs and symptoms of abuse and is aware of the procedures to be followed should she have any concerns. All adults living in the household have been vetted. To protect children and keep them safe the childminder implements routines that include visual and written risk assessments. A fire plan is in place and, to ensure prompt evacuation in the event of an emergency, is practised regularly with the children. Registers are completed accurately and the childminder supervises children at all times to ensure they do not come to any harm. Most documentation, policies and procedures that support the children's welfare is in place; however, the procedure to inform the regulatory body of significant events is not effective, resulting in a condition of registration not being met.

Parents express confidence that their children are happy and enjoy attending the setting and the childminder ensures time is spent at the end of each day to give parents appropriate feedback about their children's well-being. A system for observing and assessing children's development is currently being developed to help identify and share children's next steps with parents and inform future planning. This supports working in partnership with parents.

The childminder is beginning to self-evaluate her provision and demonstrates a commitment to continuing to enhance the care and learning of the children she minds through further training and her developing knowledge and understanding of children's progress towards the early learning goals.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

To promote children's health and well-being the childminder has clear procedures in place. For example, she follows procedures for nappy changing that prevent cross infection. To further protect children's health, parents have access to the policy that informs them children cannot attend if suffering from sickness or an infectious disease. Children have daily opportunities for fresh air and exercise as they walk to the school and park. Children's meals are provided by parents and the childminder ensures food is stored correctly to make sure it remains fresh. Drinks are always available and offered to young children frequently. Children are kept safe within the home as, for example, safety gates are in place at the kitchen door and the childminder accompanies the children as they use the first floor bathroom. Toys and equipment are checked on a regular basis to ensure they are clean and safe for use.

The childminder encourages good behaviour, praises the children appropriately and consequently children behave well. Children's cultures, beliefs and religions are

respected and the childminder demonstrates a good understanding of meeting the needs of those who need extra support. The childminder has a satisfactory knowledge of the stages of children's development and of promoting children's learning through their play, providing resources which support this. For example, young children have access to construction toys, books, small world play, art and craft materials and outdoor equipment on which they can bounce, ride and scoot. The childminder encourages children to develop their problem solving skills as they set out the train track and extends their understanding of the natural world as they discuss the weather and look at bugs in the garden and in the local parks.

During activities the childminder is usually on hand to offer appropriate support to develop children's learning. For example, she communicates with the baby through appropriate sounds and chats to older children, asking them open ended questions. This helps to support their emerging sound and language skills. This attention and interest helps to increase children's confidence and self-esteem.

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?	2
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?	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?	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?	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?	4

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:

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 (Suitable people) 31/05/2009

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 (Suitable people) 31/05/2009