

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	136463
Inspection date	22/06/2009
Inspector	Hilary Elizabeth Tierney
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 1993. She is on the Early Years Register and on the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. The childminder lives with her husband and two adult children in Yate, South Gloucestershire. The whole of the ground floor of the house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The family have two cats.

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 four children in this age group. She also offers care to children aged over five years to 11 years. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. She takes children to the local library, park and shops.

The childminder holds a Level 3 qualification in home based Childcare. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is good. The childminder has in place written policies and procedures that contribute to the smooth running of the setting. The partnership with parents is good and information is regularly shared with them. Children are confident, happy and settle quickly when parents leave. The childminder ensures she treats them all as individuals and with respect. The childminder has started the process of self-evaluation, however, she has not formally identified areas for improvement yet.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- develop the links between sensitive observational assessments and the general planning of activities that include children's interests, so that all children's individual needs continue to be met
- develop further risk assessments so they identify all aspects of the environment and daily routines that need to be checked on a regular basis and are regularly reviewed.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder has a good partnership with parents. They receive good information about their child's routine and day, through daily diaries and verbal communication at the end of the day. There is a detailed complaints procedure in place and the childminder is aware about the need to record any complaints should they occur. All written parental permissions are in place and authorised people to collect are recorded.

Children are safeguarded well. They are supervised extremely well at all times. The childminder gives children careful explanations about the consequences of their actions, for example, children were told what might happen if they ran around with things in their mouths. The childminder is clear about procedures to follow in the event of having a concern about a child in her care. Risk assessments have been completed, but these are not sufficiently detailed and do not include all aspects of the environment that children come into contact with. Fire evacuation procedures are in place and have been practised with children, but clear records are not in place. Clear accident books are kept and entries are shared with parents on the day. The childminder is aware of how to prevent the spread of infection and no sick children attend.

The childminder has started the process of self-evaluation and through discussion she was able to identify areas for improvement. Written policies and procedures contribute to the smooth running of the setting. Links with other early years settings are in their infancy.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children are happy and well occupied. They are progressing well in their learning and development. The childminder ensures she provides a wide range of activities to stimulate and interest the children. For example, children were observed enjoying doing puzzles, the childminder encouraged them to put the pieces in the puzzle themselves. Children are well behaved and respond to the praise and encouragement offered by the childminder. Children are beginning to learn about taking turns and sharing as they play. Resources are easily accessible and balanced. Children enjoy developing their imagination, creative development and looking at books alone or with the childminder. Children interact well with the childminder and each other. The childminder asks open questions to encourage the children to think and make decisions as they play. They have good opportunities to explore the world around them with many outings and free access to the enclosed garden. Although the childminder completes regular observations on children and identifies their next steps, she has yet to link these to the general planning of activities and children's interests.

Children learn about healthy personal hygiene practices through careful guidance from the childminder. She encourages them to wash their hands before meals, all children have separate hand towels which helps to prevent the spread of infection. Healthy snacks and meals are provided, children are encouraged to eat at the table. All children have easy access drinks and cups are regularly filled by the childminder. The childminder is a good role model and children observe her cleaning tables before they eat and washing her hands before she prepares food.

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.	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?	2
How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?	2
How well are children helped to stay safe?	2
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

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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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