

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY278296
Inspection date	30/07/2009
Inspector	Glenda Pownall
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 registered in 2004. She lives with her two children, who are aged six and five years, in Slough, Berkshire. The whole of the ground floor of the house is used for childminding. There is an enclosed garden for outside play. The childminder makes use of local facilities such as parks, the library and toddler groups. The family has three dogs, a cat and a snake.

The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and both the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. She may care for a maximum of four children at any one time. She is currently minding one child in the early years age group on a full-time basis.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is satisfactory. The childminder knows children in her care very well. She respects their individual needs, providing a child-friendly environment and promoting a sense of self-worth. As a result, children appear at home in the care of the childminder. They confidently move between different areas of the premises and chat with visitors about the activities they are involved in. The childminder has fully implemented the recommendation made at the last inspection and has devised a range of written policies to underpin the service she provides. She has also attended training to improve her knowledge of the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). However, several requirements to support the safeguarding of children are not in place.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- continue to develop the observation and assessment systems to show children's progress in the six areas of learning and incorporate what children can do at home

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

- maintain a record of risk assessment that details when checks are to be carried out and identifies how often aspects of the environment need to be checked according to the significance of individual risks to children's safety. (Suitable premises, environment and equipment) 13/08/2009
- ensure a record is made for each child of the name and address of every parent and carer who is known to the childminder and which of these parents or carers the child normally lives with (Documentation) 13/08/2009

The leadership and management of the early years provision

All required documents are in place to support the smooth running of the childminding service. However, the requirement to ensure a record is kept of the details of each parent the childminder is aware of and each parent who lives with the children is not fully understood or in place. In addition, although the childminder is conscientious about providing a safe environment for children to play in, she does not implement the requirement to record and maintain a risk assessment of the safety checks carried out. These are breaches of regulations and do not fully safeguard children. In addition, the childminder has committed an offence by failing to notify Ofsted of a significant event in relation to persons living on the premises. This is a specific legal requirement in the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage. Ofsted does not intend to prosecute on this occasion.

The childminder has completed a childcare qualification course to enhance the service she provides to children and parents. She monitors all aspects of the service, identifies areas for improvement and consults with parents to ensure she continues to meet the welfare needs of all children. The childminder has completed a training course to update her knowledge of child protection. She has a good understanding of the procedures to follow if concerned a child is at risk from neglect or abuse. This promotes children's well-being whilst in her care.

Parents are happy with the service the childminder provides. They particularly value the childminder's caring nature and the support she offers and they are pleased with the progress their children have made in their development whilst in her care. The childminder provides parents with details of her policies in the prospectus and a good two-way exchange of information, both verbal and written, ensures parents are fully informed about their children's routines and activities. This promotes continuity of care for children.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children appear at ease in the childminder's care. They chat happily with her and approach her readily for help, indicating trusting relationships. The childminder is calm and extremely patient with children, reasoning with them and offering clear explanations to help them understand agreed ways to behave. Children respond positively and follow instructions to be kind to the kitten and stroke it gently. Older children follow the good example set by the childminder and are considerate of the needs of younger children. Young children receive excellent support with their language skills through positive reinforcement from the childminder. This develops confidence, self-esteem and skills for the future. The observation, assessment and planning systems are evolving and the childminder has undertaken training to improve her knowledge of the learning and development requirements. Photographs are taken of children at play but the learning journals are not yet fully developed to show links between the photographs and children's progress in the six areas of learning or what they enjoy and achieve at home.

A good range of resources are easily accessible to children and the childminder provides effective support to children at activities of their choice. For example, the childminder encourages children's counting skills and recognition of numbers as they complete a clock puzzle they have chosen. Children develop their knowledge and understanding of the world through visits to local farm shops and growing and caring for tomatoes and sunflowers in the garden. They increase their awareness of the diverse society in which they live through planned activities linked to different festivals and customs. Children participate in a variety of creative activities. They concentrate as they practise, using scissors to make decorations. They squeeze and roll plasticine, feeling the texture and moulding it into different shapes. Children have daily opportunities to play in the fresh air as they freely move between activities in the play room and outside. Regular visits to parks and fun activities, such as bug hunts and nature walks, encourage children's enjoyment of physical exercise.

Children learn to adopt good personal hygiene routines and this, together with the hygiene procedures in place, reduces the risk of cross-infection. Children eagerly help the childminder to prepare and then eat a healthy snack of chopped apples, bananas and strawberries and they have constant access to a drink. This develops understanding of a healthy lifestyle. Many safety measures are in place to provide a safe environment for children. However, the lack of a record of safety checks means that not all aspects of the provision have been fully risk assessed, such as the recommended minimum age for safe use of the trampoline.

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.	2

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?	2
How well does the setting work in partnership with parents and others?	2
How well are children safeguarded?	3

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?	3
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

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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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