

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY345894
Inspection date	08/06/2009
Inspector	Carol Cox
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 2006 and began caring for minded children in September 2008. She lives with her two daughters, aged eight and nine, in Highbridge, Somerset. Most of the house, except for the ground floor toilet, is used for childminding purposes. The enclosed rear garden is available for outdoor play. She is registered on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register.

The childminder may care for a maximum of five children in the early years age group at any one time. She currently has one child in the early years age group on roll and also offers care to older children. The family has four pet cats and two dogs. The childminder is willing to collect children from St Joseph's School in Burnham as well as local schools and nurseries.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is satisfactory. The childminder works closely with parents to identify the individual needs of each child in her care. She offers a flexible and responsive service to help support families and their changing needs. Since the last inspection the childminder has made considerable improvement to her practice. With the support of the local authority she now meets the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage and is working towards further improvements. She offers inclusive care to all children with special regard to their individual needs.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- practise the fire evacuation procedure with minded children and keep records of practices
- ensure all policies and procedures are relevant to the childminder's practice and meet the guidance of the Early Years Foundation Stage
- develop a system to monitor and evaluate the provision to ensure the needs of all children are met
- continue to develop a knowledge and understanding of the welfare, learning and development requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage to ensure needs of all children are best met
- maintain a record of the actual times of children's attendance

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder works in close partnership with parents and families to identify and meet the needs of each child in her care. She builds relationships with schools and other carers to offer consistency of care. She is responsive to the changing

needs of families, for example she offers care in the evenings and at weekends when needed. Parents are invited to read her policies and procedures and have given all necessary consents. Some policies and procedures do not yet fully reflect the childminder's practice. The registration system does not yet clearly record the actual times of children's attendance. The childminder has no system in place at present to make a self-evaluation of her provision. However, she demonstrates a commitment to continuous improvement through seeking assistance to address the actions from her previous inspection.

Children are encouraged to learn to keep themselves safe. For example, older children know they must not open the front door without the childminder's approval. There are clear risk assessments in place to ensure children's continuing safety. There is a fire evacuation procedure in place, however, this has not yet been practised by minded children. Children are further safeguarded because the childminder has a sound understanding of child protection issues and has regard for the current Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children are helped to stay safe in the childminder's care because she has carefully considered all aspects of her practice. Children learn about road safety and stranger danger when on regular outings to local parks and other amenities. The childminder's house is safe and secure for children who enjoy the freedom to move around. Children's health is effectively promoted through the provision of nutritious snacks and drinks, for example, at dinner time children choose different salad items to complement their pizzas. The childminder ensures that children have daily opportunities for fresh air and exercise.

Children begin to make choices about their own play and activities and freely access a wide range of toys and resources. They learn to celebrate diversity through listening to world music, exploring different cultures and valuing each other. Children display a sense of belonging and enjoy helping to look after the family pets. They learn skills to prepare them for life, for example, when solving problems through games such as Connect Four and Who's Who? The childminder does not yet maintain records of children's achievements. However, she uses her good knowledge of children's interests to provide a well balanced range of activities and opportunities for learning in all areas. Children learn about their own community and the wider world through regular outings. They express themselves fluently verbally and in writing when writing poems and stories or role-playing. The childminder enjoys spending time with children and provides a range of stimulating activities to help them make progress in all areas.

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:	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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