

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	268377
Inspection date	06/08/2009
Inspector	Karen Cooper
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).

Children only attend this setting before and/or after the school day and/or during the school holidays. The judgements in this report reflect the quality of early years provision offered to children during those periods.

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 has been registered since 2001. She lives with her husband and two children aged 8 and 14 years. They live in a house in the Stockingford area of Nuneaton. The childminder co-minds with her mother. The location is convenient for schools, parks and shops. The ground floor of the childminder's home is used for childminding, except for the front lounge. The childminder's home is accessible via several steps at the front and rear of the property. There is an enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered by Ofsted on the Early Years Register and the voluntary and compulsory parts of the Childcare Register to provide care for six children. The childminder is currently minding ten children on a full-time and part-time basis, four of whom are within the early years age range. The family's pets include eight rabbits, a corn snake and a chinchilla.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association (NCMA) and she is available to collect children from the local school.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is good. Children are very content at this welcoming and stimulated setting and are cared for by a dedicated and committed childminder. She provides good opportunities for children to learn and develop in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and children have access to a range of good quality toys and resources that are checked on a regular basis. The childminder supports and values every child to ensure no one is disadvantaged. Well-organised documentation is mostly in place to ensure children's safety and well-being is promoted. Good practice is sustained through the childminder's commitment to improvement, ongoing training and evaluation of the provision.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- ensure children's privacy is maintained with regard to the recording of accidents
- improve the two way flow of information with parents by developing procedures with regards to who has legal parental responsibility of children
- improve the record of risk assessment so that it includes information for outings and the trampoline.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder offers a fully inclusive service and welcomes all children into her care. She demonstrates a professional approach to her role and is committed to

improving her practice. The childminder shows a good understanding to meeting the requirements of the EYFS and has accessed additional training in order to improve her knowledge and understanding, including EYFS, observation and assessments, first aid and behaviour management. She regularly monitors and evaluates the quality of her provision using the Ofsted self-evaluation form and demonstrates a positive attitude towards improvement. The childminder uses this knowledge effectively to provide children with a wide range of learning experiences. Children benefit from good levels of supervision and individual attention as she co-minds with her mother. Children have formed good relationship with each other, both childminders and their family. The childminder regularly asks children and parents for feedback acting on any suggestions made to improve her practice.

The childminder ensures documentation is well-organised and regularly reviewed. She is methodical in her approach to her childminding arrangements and ensures parents are well informed of the care and service provided. However, information with regard to who has legal parental responsibility is not in place to ensure children's well-being is fully protected. The childminder and co-minder works in close partnership with parents to meet children's individual needs, encouraging a two-way exchange of information through daily discussions, children's individual folders and written policies and procedures. Parents appreciate the childminding service and demonstrate this through positive feedback on thank you cards. The childminder has formed good links with other childminders, support workers and early years practitioners who deliver the EYFS to ensure that children are provided with appropriate levels of support.

The childminder is fully aware of the procedures to follow should a concern arise about a child and ensures that the written safeguarding policy is shared with parents before their child attends. Children's risk of accidental injury is minimised as written and visual risk assessments are carried out on the premises, toys and equipment to ensure that any hazards are promptly identified and minimised. However, records of risk assessments are not kept for each specific outing and the use of the trampoline to ensure children's safety is fully protected.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children make good progress within the EYFS because the childminder ensures that they are provided with opportunities to participate in a wide range of activities. The childminder has given good consideration to implementing the EYFS and has introduced suitable planning, assessment and evaluation systems which she ensures is shared with parents on a regular basis. These include the use of observations and photographs which are collated in children's individual folders. Children have good opportunities to learn about diversity as they have access to a range of positive images resources, including books, figures, dolls and role-play.

Children's behaviour is effectively managed by a consistent, caring and considerate childminder. Children are valued and the childminder helps them to feel good about themselves by frequently providing them with praise and encouragement, while managing behaviour well; this helps build children's self-esteem. Children are

developing a love of art and craft and eagerly participate in a collage activity creating a large wall freeze of creature that lives beneath the sea. Children confidently talk about the various colours of the tissue paper and help each other glue the pieces of materials onto the large canvas. Children demonstrate an interest and understanding of animals for example; they enjoy handling the childminder's pet rabbits and helping to feed them.

Children's health and well-being is promoted as the childminder has good procedures in place if children become ill or have accident whilst at the setting. However, the recording of accidents does not ensure children's confidentiality is fully protected. Children are developing a good understanding of emergency evacuation procedures which the childminder ensures is practiced regularly with the children. Children enjoy a variety of healthy and nutritious meals that are freshly prepared every day and can access drinks at any time, ensuring they stay well hydrated throughout the day. The childminder ensures children's dietary needs are catered for as she has a good understanding of allergies and the children preferences. The daily routine supports children's individual needs including provision for rest and sleep.

Children benefit from a range of activities outside the setting; they frequently visit the park and often take part in more energetic activities when using the trampoline. Outdoor play is prioritised by the childminder as she ensures children have daily opportunities to enjoy the attractive well-equipped garden which includes a playhouse full of stimulating age appropriate toys and resources. Children also have access to various push-alongs, wheeled toys, sand, water, tents, tunnels and much more, all of which ensure that children develop their physical skills.

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?	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

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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