

Inspection report for early years provision

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Inspection date 24/11/2009
Inspector Lynne Elizabeth Lewington

Type of setting Childminder

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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.

Please see our website for more information about each childcare provider. We publish inspection reports, conditions of registration and details of complaints we receive where we or the provider take action to meet the requirements of registration.

Description of the childminding

The childminder has been registered since 1990. She lives with her husband and two adult sons in a house in the centre of Cippenham near Slough. The house is close to local schools, shops and a park. There is an enclosed back garden. The ground floor is used for childminding and children sleep in either the upstairs room or in the living room. There is level access to the premises and toilet facilities on the first floor.

The childminder is registered to care for six children under eight years, three may be in the early years age range. Currently there are four early years children on roll. The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and also on both parts of the Childcare Register. The childminder takes and collects children from the local school and nursery. The family have a dog and a cat.

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is good.

Good care is taken to ensure children are safe and secure in this warm clean home. Positive relationships with parents enable appropriate information to be shared in order for the childminder to understand and meet the needs of the individual children, creating an inclusive environment. The childminder has made improvements to her service since the last inspection; self-evaluated her service and identified realistic improvements she would like to make indicating the service will continue to improve for young children and their families.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- improve awareness of safeguarding children procedures as described in the guidance set out in 'What to do if you are worried a child is being abused - Summary' published by the Department Children Schools and Families.
- continue to develop the system of observing and assessing all children's achievements across the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) framework to clearly identify their next steps and support the planning of activities based on their individual independent interests and existing skills

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

Comprehensive risk assessments covering all aspects of the provision help to ensure children's safety is considered at all times. Fire drills are undertaken regularly enabling all children to learn how to safely leave the building in an emergency. Children learn safe behaviours, both in the home and on outings, increasing their abilities to keep themselves safe. The childminder has a basic

awareness of the signs and symptoms of child abuse and the action she would take. However she is not familiar with the guidance, 'What to do if you are worried a child is being abused -Summary', published by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF).

Good use is made of the ground floor of this clean and well-maintained property enabling the children to have both floor and table top play space for their activities. An attractive garden is available where children safely play with wheeled toys, balls, and sand and water. A selection of the good quality toys and equipment are easily available to the children each day enabling some independent choice.

Comprehensive information gathered from parents helps to inform the childminder of each individual child's needs. She understands the need to adapt activities to enable children to participate at a level suitable to their abilities. Children learn through activities, books and experiences about different cultural and traditional festivals, they learn to be respectful to each other and to help each other in their activities.

Questionnaires to parents and their children enabled the childminder to consider her service and ensure it meets the needs of those who use it. Comments from both parents and children are very positive. Clear information is available for parents about the service provided and the action to take if they have any complaints about the service offered.

The childminder recognises the importance of developing positive relationships with others involved in children's care and is developing good relationships with other services. Good communication with the other settings children attend helps to ensure concerns are raised and children's interests are noted.

Self-evaluation has enabled the childminder to identify her strengths and areas for further improvement. She has plans to undertake short training and workshop opportunities in the coming year to continue to develop and keep up to date with current practice.

The quality and standards of the early years provision and outcomes for children

The childminder promotes good opportunities for children to enjoy and achieve and develop skills for the future through the opportunities she provides them. For example children enjoy making Christmas collage pictures using a range of glitters, glues, stickers, feathers and stencils. This simple activity provides opportunities to develop fine physical skills as small items are picked up, tops unscrewed and glitter is shaken; make decisions about size and position and what to use; talk and describe what they are doing; discover that some things need more glue than others because they are heavier and finally enjoy the social pleasure of sharing the finished result with someone else.

Comprehensive photograph albums are created of the children as they undertake

their activities and notes made against the photographs to indicate the children's activity and interest. These link to simple statements of progress in each area of learning. The photograph albums are available for parents to see at any time and provide a lovely record of the child's early years and development when they move on to school. Most children's albums identify their progress through photographs and comments with a summary of the progress through each area of learning. However, some records are more detailed than others and lack detail about physical development.

Children are learning to consider others as they play and show care and consideration for the younger children. For example, when the baby cries another young child strokes gently and tries to soothe the child. Behaviour is good due to the clear and consistent boundaries and expectations of the childminder, who sets a good example to the children. The childminder encourages children to use good manners and they learn sensible routines to ensure they care for the resources appropriately. They learn about healthy eating as they enjoy fruit snacks and regular drinks of water. Mealtimes are at regular times providing a routine to the day which adds to young children's sense of security.

The childminder maintains the documentation required to meet the requirements of registration. Suitable records are in place for recording accidents and medication and the childminder's first aid certificate is up to date enabling her to confidently deal with any accidents. She gathers important information from parents in order to meet children's individual needs and seeks appropriate training and advice if a child's needs require specific care.

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

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

How well does the setting meet the needs of the children in the Early Years Foundation Stage?	2
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement	2

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

How effectively is the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?	2
The effectiveness of leadership and management in embedding ambition and driving improvement	2
The effectiveness with which the setting deploys resources	2
The effectiveness with which the setting promotes equality and diversity	2
The effectiveness of safeguarding	3
The effectiveness of the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement	2
The effectiveness of partnerships	2
The effectiveness of the setting's engagement with parents and carers	2

The quality of the provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage

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Outcomes for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage

Outcomes for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage	2
The extent to which children achieve and enjoy their learning	2
The extent to which children feel safe	2
The extent to which children adopt healthy lifestyles	2
The extent to which children make a positive contribution	2
The extent to which children develop skills for the future	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:

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:

- implement a written safeguarding children's policy and procedure which includes the procedure to be followed in the event of an allegation being made against the provider (Arrangements for Safeguarding Children) 08/12/2009

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:

- implement a written safeguarding children's policy and procedure which includes the procedure to be followed in the event of an allegation being made against the provider (Arrangements for Safeguarding Children) 08/12/2009