

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY390594
Inspection date	22/10/2010
Inspector	Doreen Forsyth
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 was registered in 2006. She lives with her husband and three young children in army married quarters at Tidworth in Wiltshire. All of the home may be used for childcare. There is an enclosed rear garden available for outside play. The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and on the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register to provide care for up to four children under the age of eight; of these, two may be in the early years age range. Currently there are four children on roll; of these, two are in the early years age group. All the children attend on a part time basis.

The family have some pet fish. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is good.

The childminder very effectively meets the needs of all the children of all the children in her care. She welcomes and values all children whatever their background or ability. The childminder efficiently promotes the children's learning and development so that the children are making good progress. The childminder works very closely with parents to ensure the children's welfare needs are well met. The childminder has made good improvements since her last inspection, and has effective strategies in place for her to monitor the quality of the provision offered and to identify targets for future improvement.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- ensure parents are informed of the complaints procedures (information and complaints) (also applies to the Childcare Register) 05/11/2010

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

- help the children to progress by using the observations that are made of the children's progress to identify a next step in their learning and link the observations firmly to the early learning goals to ensure that all areas of learning are well promoted
- provide parents with clear information about the safeguarding and other relevant policies

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

The provision is well managed. Most of the policies, procedures and records that are necessary for the effective organization of the Early Years Foundation Stage and to promote the children's well-being are in place, but they are not always appropriately shared with parents. The childminder has written child protection procedures and is very confident in the procedures she would follow if she has any safeguarding children concerns. The childminder and her husband have been suitably vetted, she ensures that no unvetted adults have unsupervised access to the children.

Children play in a very safe, secure and well organised environment. The childminder has made her home very welcoming, Children's art-work and attractive posters are displayed. The children can easily access the safe and enclosed rear garden and enjoy the good range of outside toys and equipment available. The childminder has very effectively risk assessed her home and garden to identify and minimise any potential hazards to the children. Children have access to a wide range of age appropriate toys and resources; these are stored so that the children can independently select what they wish to play with.

The childminder builds strong partnership with parents. They are kept very well informed of the children's activities, welfare and achievements through very comprehensive daily diaries. The childminder is aware of the importance of working closing with any other early years providers that the children use to promote the integration of care and education. The childminder strives to promote inclusive practice where all children are helped to achieve as well as they can. She carries out regular quality checks to monitor the quality of the provision she offers and she has a clear understanding of any strengths and weaknesses.

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

The children are very happy, settled and enjoy their time with the childminder. She offers them a very wide range of worthwhile activities that are planned to help them learn and progress appropriately in all areas. The childminder plans activities using themes such as 'Autumn'. The children have enjoyed making collage pictures using leaves they have collected on nature walks, have made bird feeders, clay hedgehogs and are currently enjoying making pumpkin pictures to display on the walls for Halloween. They often go out and about; for example, to toddler group, soft play centres and visiting other childminder's and their children. This provides opportunities for the children to learn to interact with others and develop their social skills. The childminder is observing and recording the children's progress well, but she does not yet use these observations to identify a next step in the children's learning so that she helps them to progress. The observations are not closely linked to the early learning goals making it difficult for the childminder to ensure she is fully promoting all areas.

Children's good health and well-being are very well promoted. The childminder takes good steps to prevent infection; such as providing individual named towels and flannels for each child. She implements an appropriate sickness policy. The childminder provides all the children's meals and snacks. These are always healthy and well balanced. For example, during the inspection the children enjoyed helping themselves from a platter of different fresh fruits. They can always access their own drinking water. If children have any special dietary requirements these are always noted and observed. Children have good opportunities to play outside in the fresh air; they often go for walks locally and enjoy physical play in the garden. The childminder helps the children to begin to learn about keeping themselves safe; they take part in regular fire evacuation procedures with the childminder and discuss road safety when they are out and about.

Through a very good selection of suitable toys and through some of their activities, such as exploring Dawali and Christmas, the children are learning very well about diversity and the wider world. The childminder helps the children to behave appropriately. She expects them to consider the needs of others and learn to share and take turns. The children's skills in communication and literacy are promoted, they are encouraged to be independent and active learners; helping to develop some of the skills that the children will need in their future learning.

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

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the Early Years Foundation Stage	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	2
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

The quality of the provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage	2
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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:

- take action as specified in the Early Years section of the report (procedures for dealing with complaints) 05/11/2010

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:

- take action as above 05/11/2010