

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	105498
Inspection date	19/01/2010
Inspector	Keriann Belcher

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.

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Description of the childminding

The childminder registered in 2000. She lives with her husband and two children aged 12 and 14 years, in Cippenham near Slough. She is registered on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register . The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's home is available for childminding with bathroom and rest facilities on the first floor. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for six children under eight years at any one time, of whom no more than three may be in the early years age range. She is currently caring for four children in the early years age group, two of which attend part-time.

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is good.

Children's safety and welfare are promoted. The childminder offers an inclusive service as she treats all children with care and kindness. Overall, children's behaviour is managed positively. They are making good progress in their learning and development, as the childminder provides a secure and stimulating environment to assist them in their early developmental skills. However, the planning and assessment procedures are in their infancy. The childminder is aware of her strengths and weaknesses and self-evaluation processes are emerging, which enables her to reflect on her practice.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- extend the risk assessments to include the hazards associated with the sharing of towels following hand washing
- extend planning, observation and assessment procedures to identify children's next steps for learning and link to the Early Years Foundation Stage
- review methods to manage children's behaviour which does not have an adverse impact on the child's well-being.

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder understands the importance of safeguarding children in her care and is aware of the indicators of child abuse and the child protection procedures to follow if she was concerned about a child. The childminder further safeguards children by carrying out risk assessments on her home to identify and minimise potential hazards. The childminder's home is clean and comfortable for children.

The childminder has a wide range of toys and resources available to the children that provide suitable challenges in all areas of development and learning. All equipment and resources are easily accessible to the children.

The childminder establishes caring and supportive relationships with parents, providing an inclusive environment to families. All children's personal details are gathered from parents before they begin a placement.

The childminder works closely with the child's parents/cares to ensure that consistent care for each child to ensure their individual needs are met. She has developed an organised and effective record keeping system where she records day-to-day matters and developmental progress.

All the required documentation, such as attendance, medication and accident records are in place to promote the children's welfare.

The childminder evaluate her practices and can identify areas for improvements. She is keen to widen her knowledge and understanding to benefit the children's learning such as attending training on food safety and the Early Years Foundation stage.

The childminder has a good understanding of the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. However she has not developed a clear observation and assessment systems in order to plan effectively for children's next steps. The childminder understands the importance of effective communication with nurseries and schools that the children attend to further promote their learning and development.

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

Children are looked after in a caring and loving environment where they enjoy the play opportunities they have with the childminder. This results in the children feeling secure to investigate their surroundings and make good progress in their development, for example children help themselves to resources from low level toy boxes.

The childminder interacts warmly with the children, sitting with them and encouraging their language for communication as they share stories at quiet times of the day or singing together favourite rhymes such as 'The Wheels on the Bus'. Children have lots of fun as they negotiate space successfully as they move around the room pretending to be 'flies' adjusting or changing direction to avoid obstacles. The childminder uses everyday opportunities for children to count such as when they climb the stairs to go to bed.

Since the last inspection the childminder has begun to celebrate Chinese New Year and other cultural festivals with the children, which has increased their knowledge and understanding of the wider world.

The childminder takes reasonable steps to ensure children in her care remain healthy and free from cross infection. Children do not attend if they are unwell. The childminder talks with young children about the importance of washing their hands at appropriate times. However, all the children use the same towel to dry their hands, which compromises good hygiene practice. Children are offered regular drinks throughout the day to prevent them becoming dehydrated.

The childminder holds a current first aid certificate and this enables her to confidently deal with any injuries. Children are developing an understanding of keeping safe as they regularly practise the fire evacuation procedure.

Generally the childminder manages children's behaviour effectively. However, occasionally methods are used that could have an adverse impact on children well-being, such as using the 'naughty step'.

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: Met

The provider confirms that the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register are: Met