

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY405535
Inspection date	22/06/2011
Inspector	Rachael Williams
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 2009. She lives with her husband, who is also a registered childminder, and their daughter in Brislington, Bristol. All areas of the family home are registered with childminding predominantly taking place on the ground floor. There is an enclosed rear garden to facilitate physical play. The family care for a variety of birds, fish, two small dogs and a rabbit. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children under eight years at any one time. She is registered on the Early Years Register and both the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. When working with another childminder she may care for a maximum of 12 children under eight years old; of whom six may be in the early years age range. At present, there are five children on roll; all of whom are in the early years age range.

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is inadequate.

Children's welfare is not safeguarded adequately as there are several breaches of specific legal requirements that impact on their safety. On the whole, outcomes for children are satisfactory and their individual needs are recognised and met. Children are confident and settled and make adequate progress in their learning. Partnerships with other early years providers are limited. Positive relationships are established with parents and information about the setting and their child's achievements are shared. Although the childminder shows an accurate understanding of the strengths of the provision, self-evaluation arrangements are not sufficiently embedded to bring about continuous improvement.

Overall, the early years provision requires significant improvement. The registered person is given a Notice to Improve that sets out actions to be carried out.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

To comply with the requirements of the EYFS the registered person must take the following action by the specified date:

- conduct a risk assessment which is reviewed regularly to include additions to the setting (Premises, environment and equipment) (also applies to both parts of the Childcare Register) 08/07/2011
- take steps to to minimise identified hazards to promote a safe and secure environment both indoors 08/07/2011

and outdoors (Suitable premises, environment and equipment) (also applies to both parts of the Childcare Register)

- position a fire blanket in the kitchen which is in full working order (Suitable premises, environment and equipment) 08/07/2011
- plan and organise systems to ensure that every child receives experiences tailored to meet their individual needs, with particular regard to monitoring the provision, including the views of parents and engaging with other early years providers (Organisation) 08/07/2011
- maintain a daily record of the names of the children looked after on the premises and their hours of attendance (Documentation) (also applies to both parts of the Childcare Register) 08/07/2011

To improve the early years provision the registered person should:

- develop further assessment arrangements to link observations and learning priorities to children's stage of development so that they are appropriately challenged
- obtain written parental consent for outings

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder has sufficient knowledge of child protection issues to enable appropriate procedures to be followed should an incident occur. She has a relevant policy and can access appropriate literature and contact details of key agencies. However, there are several breaches of specific legal requirements which have led to inadequate safeguarding arrangements. Potential hazards around the home are not minimised and therefore children are at risk. For example, dangerous substances, such as cleaning products, are easily accessible in the bathroom which is accessed independently by the children. Although the childminder has completed risk assessments of the areas used by the children they are not robust and have not been reviewed when new hazards have been introduced to the environment. For example, the risk assessment of the garden has not been amended to consider the new puppies, the installation of a greenhouse and access to the barbecue and coals which are potential risks to young children. In addition, an accurate record of children's daily attendance has not been completed which also poses a potential risk to their safety and welfare. Although a fire blanket has been purchased it is not in working order, as legally required, as it is stored on a shelf in its cellophane wrapping and not affixed to the kitchen wall.

The childminder understands the strengths of the provision. For example, outdoor activities are of high priority and good use is made of the local environment to enhance children's experiences. For instance, they regularly visit the allotment, woods, park, farm and zoo to promote their understanding of nature and to engage their curiosity. However, her monitoring systems are not fully embedded

and therefore, not all weaknesses have been clearly identified and appropriate action taken.

Children have access to a sufficient range of resources, including some to reflect diversity, and make choices about their play. For example, children relish the opportunity to have frequent outdoor experiences, such as helping to care for the family's pets and collecting the quails eggs. The childminder ensures she has sufficient information to support children's individual needs and to promote their self-esteem. For example, as the children start with the childminder she makes relevant observations so that she has appropriate information on children's interests and home backgrounds. Although the childminder has yet to care for children with special needs or for whom English is an additional language she feels confident to liaise with parents and health professionals to support the children. For example, she would ensure that all children are included in activities either by adapting the experience or offering one-to-one support.

Positive relationships are established with parents and, on the whole, appropriate information about the setting and their child's achievements are shared. The views of parents have yet to be included in self-evaluation procedures and contributions of children's achievements at home have yet to be used to influence future planning. Partnership working is poorly developed especially with other early years providers in order to promote continuity in children's care, learning and development.

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

There is an appropriate balance of experiences for children to engage in; in particular, to encourage children's concentration skills. They are keen to be involved in a planned creative activity supported by the childminder. The children colour the discs for their badges, identifying the colours well. Children recite favourite songs as they colour. Communication skills are developing appropriately as the childminder talks through the process of making a badge and introducing new vocabulary. Children become aware of safety as the childminder explains the need to be careful with the pins on the back of the badge. Children show good spatial awareness and problem-solving skills as they complete jigsaws competently matching shapes together. Sensitive observations are made of children's engagement in activities. Learning priorities are identified but they are not consistently linked to children's stage of development in order to influence future planning of appropriate activities to challenge children's learning.

Children respond well to the childminder as caring relationships have been established and children are happy and confident. Children's behaviour is good. For example, an older child is extremely helpful as he opens a younger child's drinking flask. Children know the routines of the setting, for instance, washing hands at appropriate times and which towel they can use to dry their hands. Children are aware of their own personal needs. For instance, they ask for a snack when they are hungry and for their drinks to be replenished when they are thirsty. Children

are introduced to healthy eating as they are involved in growing and harvesting a range of fruit and vegetables that they taste and use in their cooking activities. The childminder is proactive in promoting children's health and well-being. For example, in consultation with parents appropriate advice and support is sought to access relevant treatment. The childminder is aware of maintaining safety when on outings. For instance, they discuss road safety and where an appropriate place to cross is. However, relevant consent has not been obtained from parents to take children on outings.

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?	4
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement	4

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the Early Years Foundation Stage	4
The effectiveness of leadership and management in embedding ambition and driving improvement	4
The effectiveness with which the setting deploys resources	3
The effectiveness with which the setting promotes equality and diversity	3
The effectiveness of safeguarding	4
The effectiveness of the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement	4
The effectiveness of partnerships	4
The effectiveness of the setting's engagement with parents and carers	3

The quality of the provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage

The quality of the provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage	4
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Outcomes for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage

Outcomes for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage	3
The extent to which children achieve and enjoy their learning	3
The extent to which children feel safe	3
The extent to which children adopt healthy lifestyles	2
The extent to which children make a positive contribution	3
The extent to which children develop skills for the future	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:

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 part of the report (Suitability and safety of premises and equipment) 08/07/2011
- take action as specified in the early years part of the report (Records to be kept) 08/07/2011

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 specified in the early years part of the report (Suitability and safety of premises and equipment) 08/07/2011
- take action as specified in the early years part of the report (Records to be kept) 08/07/2011