

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY371831
Inspection date	26/11/2008
Inspector	Joyce Bowler

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 report includes information on any complaints about the childcare provision which Ofsted has received since the last inspection or registration whichever is the later, which require Ofsted or the provider to take action in Annex C.

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.

Description of the childminding

The childminder registered in 2008. She lives with her husband and three children in Bridgwater, Somerset. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding and includes a lounge, dining room, kitchen and toilet. There is a rear garden for outdoor play. The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Registers. She may care for a maximum of five children at any one time. Currently, there are two children on roll in the early years age range and two children over the age of five. The family have two guinea pigs as pets.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The childminder has established a highly professional and well run service since registration earlier this year. She has a good knowledge and understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and has effective systems in place to promote children's welfare, learning and development. The childminder provides a welcoming and inclusive environment which meets children's needs well. She uses effective self evaluation systems in order to monitor and improve her practice.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- continue to develop the use of observations and assessment to inform practice

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder organises her home, daily routines and documentation well in order to provide children with a good variety of learning opportunities in a secure environment. She has monitored her provision continuously since registration and has completed her first online self evaluation form. She reviews and updates her policies regularly and keeps these on file to share with parents. She has made intelligent assessments of her strengths and weaknesses and sets high standards for herself and the provision. She uses her local informal childminding networking group to develop her own practice and attends local authority training workshops and meetings. Her documentation is of a good quality and all policies and procedures required by registration on the Early Years, compulsory and voluntary Childcare Registers is in place. The childminder has established a verbal exchange of feedback for parents at drop off and collection times. In addition, parents are provided with a comprehensive portfolio of information regarding her service and children's progress and development. She agrees behaviour management with parents and promotes good manners and cooperative play. She is aware of her responsibilities for safeguarding children and has up to date information to hand which is in line with guidance from the Local Safeguarding Children's Board.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The childminder demonstrates a good understanding of the EYFS and is using it to ensure that individual children's needs and interests are met. Children are able to select from a good range of resources, toys and games which interest and stimulate them. They are settled well in order for them to be comfortable and happy in her care. For example, children are reassured well when visitors call and quickly return to their happy selves playing as part of the family. They respond well to the childminder's friendly and affectionate approach. The childminder integrates all six areas of learning into daily routines and also provides planned activities which focus on specific aims such as learning colours or numbers. This results in daily routines and games which promote learning while having fun. She promotes good self esteem and confidence in children by encouraging them to have free choice, to select toys and to join in lively conversation, for example about the leaves they collected on their walk and the dogs they saw. Children receive very good opportunities to develop their vocabulary and to voice their ideas and opinions. Children enjoy art and craft activities as follow up to local events such as the Bridgwater carnival and things they have seen at the toddler group. Each child in the early years age range has a learning journey which is recorded in their own EYFS file. This includes detailed information made from assessments, observations and parents' comments on the 'All about me' forms that they fill in for the childminder. She is beginning to use these to plan the next steps for children and to influence her choice of toys, equipment and activities provided for the children. She is reviewing the use of these files along with diaries in order to decide which is the most useful and relevant for children and their parents. The childminder caters for children aged over five years by adapting activities to their moods and levels of tiredness after a busy school day.

The childminder has a good knowledge of welfare requirements and shows an effective commitment to providing children with a secure environment which promotes their good health and safety. Children are protected from the risk of cross infection as the childminder follows good hygiene practices. She helps children to understand why they should wash their hands and each child has their own colour coded hand towel. The childminder provides healthy snacks which provide a balance of fresh fruit and carbohydrates for energy. Drinks are topped up during play and the childminder ensures that children only drink from their own beakers. Daily opportunities to play in the fresh air and to go on outings provide children with plenty of opportunities to 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

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

Annex C: complaint/s made to Ofsted

This section of the report includes details of any complaint/s made to Ofsted when:

- we took action for the provider to meet the requirements of the Early Years Register; or
- we asked the provider to take action in order to meet the requirements of the Early Years Register; or
- the provider had already taken any necessary action to meet the requirements of the Early Years Register.

We will not report on any complaint where the provider met the requirements of the Early Years Register or did not require any action by Ofsted or the registered provider.

Detail of the complaint/s

Since registration there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action.

The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by parents, which they can see on request. The complaints record may contain complaints other than those made to Ofsted.