

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	110381
Inspection date	24/03/2009
Inspector	Sheena Bankier

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 has been registered since 1992. She is registered on the Early Years Register and both the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. The childminder lives with her husband and lodger in a small rural village near Thatcham. The ground floor of the home is mainly used for childminding with access to the first floor for sleeping purposes. There is a garden that the children are able to use part of under the direct supervision of the childminder. The childminder has six cats and five ducks.

The childminder is registered to care for six children under eight. There are currently five children on roll, four of whom are in the early years age group. Children attend for various days in term time and school holidays. Local facilities are used by the childminder with the children, such as parks. She is able to take and collect children from local pre-schools and schools.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall, the effectiveness of the provision is inadequate. The childminder recognises some of the weaknesses of her provision although has done little to address these. Children enjoy appropriate activities that support their learning and development. The childminder has some understanding of the learning and development requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), although she is not actively using this to underpin children's learning and progress. Aspects of health and safety pose potential risks to the children. Good communication with parents results in continuity in meeting children's needs.

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:

- complete an appropriate paediatric first aid course by 30 June 2009 (Safeguarding and promoting children's welfare) 30/06/2009
- request written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment (Safeguarding and promoting children's welfare) 07/04/2009
- ensure Ofsted is informed of all members of the household aged 16 and over and that these members of the household complete Ofsted suitability checks (Suitable people) (also applies to both parts of the Childcare Register) 07/04/2009
- ensure responsibilities under food hygiene legislation 07/04/2009

are undertaken to include registration with the relevant Local Authority Environmental Health Department (Safeguarding and promoting children's welfare)

- ensure that any animals on the premises do not pose a health risk to children. (Safeguarding and promoting children's welfare)

07/04/2009

To improve the early years provision the registered person should:

- develop further understanding of the learning and development requirements to underpin children's outcomes.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder lacks understanding of the welfare requirements of the EYFS. She has not addressed all the recommendations from her previous inspection or implemented changes to her practice where she has recognised development is necessary. There are potential risks to children's good health and well-being. Consent is not in place from parents to seek emergency treatment and advice for children and the childminder does not hold a first aid certificate. As a result, in the event of an emergency she does not have the necessary skills to provide first aid treatment or permission to seek further advice or treatment for children. The childminder has not notified Ofsted of changes to her circumstances, such as, new members of the household aged over 16. This means that members of the household have not undertaken Ofsted suitability checks.

The childminder is aware of her responsibilities to safeguard children. She has a satisfactory knowledge of possible signs and symptoms of abuse. Local procedures and contact numbers are in place to support the childminder in the event of her having concerns about children's welfare.

Procedures to ensure good food hygiene are not effective. During the inspection a cat was observed to access the kitchen work surface, although not directly where the childminder was preparing food. This poses a health risk to children. No registration is in place with the local environmental health department to support good food hygiene practice. The childminder is not aware of her responsibilities to register with them.

Parents have good relationships with the childminder. Frequent exchanges of information take place about children's needs and achievements, such as, sending text messages during the day and discussions at drop off and collection times. This promotes consistency in children's learning and care needs. Parents receive appropriate information about children's progress through discussions, artwork taken home and photographs.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children enjoy warm and caring relationships with the childminder, who knows them well as individuals. Clear guidelines support children's understanding of acceptable behaviour, such as, using good manners. They develop understanding of sharing and turn taking through consistent guidance from the childminder. Children develop self-esteem as the childminder praises children for their efforts and achievements. Activities and eating around the table promote children's social skills as they chat and participate together.

The childminder plans flexibly for children's learning and development using seasons and events around the year. She recognises suitable activities, play experiences and outings that support children in their development and identifies children's achievements. However, she does not actively use the EYFS to underpin her planning for individual children, for example, tracking children's outcomes and using this information to guide her in planning for the next steps in each child's learning.

Children benefit from making their own choices and decisions from the toys and resources on offer. These are accessible to children as they are stored at a low level. This enables children to initiate their own play and ideas. The childminder interacts well with the children, asking good questions to help children think and develop their understanding. They look at books and enjoy discussions about past and future planned events, such as, the recent snow. Children increase their understanding of traditional celebrations and those of other people. They make Mother's Day cards and celebrate Chinese New Year, making Chinese lanterns and eating Chinese food. Local outings to Snelsmore Common increase the children's understanding of living things and nature. These activities promote children's understanding and knowledge of the world.

Creative activities develop children's small physical skills and imagination. They enjoy gluing and sticking to create crowns to wear and make model boats to sail in the puddles on their outing to the common. The childminder supports children's understanding of shapes and colours at these activities through discussion, as children choose different items to use. Children enjoy role play, for example, pretending to talk on the toy telephone and playing with the dolls and buggies. This enables children to create real and imagined experiences and helps them understand the world they live in.

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?	4
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	3
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	4

Leadership and management

How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?	4
How effective is the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement?	4
How well does the setting work in partnership with parents and others?	3
How well are children safeguarded?	4

Quality and standards

How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?	3
How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?	4
How well are children helped to stay safe?	4
How well are children helped to be healthy?	4
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	3
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	3
How well are children helped develop skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being?	3

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:

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 07/04/2009
- devise and implement a written statement of procedures to be followed for the protection of children (also applies to the voluntary part of the Childcare Register) 07/04/2009
- devise and implement a written statement of procedures to be followed in relation to complaints. (also applies to the voluntary part of the Childcare Register) 07/04/2009

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:

- take action as specified in the early years and compulsory sections of the report. 07/04/2009

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

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the last inspection.

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.