

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	126038
Inspection date	27/04/2009
Inspector	Janette Mary White

Type of setting	Childminder
------------------------	-------------

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.

Description of the childminding

The childminder was registered in 1998. She lives with her husband and two school aged children in Burham, Rochester, Kent. All areas of the property are used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local parent and toddler group. The family has a cat, a hamster and two rabbits.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time and is currently minding six on a part time basis. There are four within the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and two aged over five years. The premises are not suitable for wheelchair uses. The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and on both the voluntary and compulsory parts of the Childcare Register.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is inadequate. There are a significant number of welfare requirements which are not being met. Therefore, aspects of children's welfare are not effectively safeguarded. The childminder has not ensured that some written permissions from parents are in place, such as seeking emergency medical advice or treatment or obtaining prior written permission before any medication is given. In addition, she has not maintained, for some of the children, details of the essential information nor has she ensured a daily record of each child's hours of attendance. The childminder has implemented satisfactory systems to support aspects of the children's learning and development. Children enjoy learning about their local area and the world around them and she works together with the parents and other agencies to consider their ongoing development and their next step. She provides a homely environment allowing children to broaden their play. Through discussion with the childminder she highlights areas for the continuous future improvement of her service and identifies areas of her strengths.

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:

- request written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment. (Safeguarding and promoting children's welfare). 05/05/2009
- obtain prior written permission for each and every medicine, from parents, before any medication is given. (Safeguarding and promoting children's 05/05/2009

welfare). (also applies to both parts of the Childcare Register).

- ensure a daily record of children is maintained, including the name of each child and their hours of attendance. (Documentation) (also applies to both parts of the Childcare Register). 05/05/2009
- maintain a record of the information for each child including their name, date of birth, the name and address of every parent and carer and contact number, which of these parents or carers the child normally lives with and emergency contact details of the parents and carers. (Documentation) (also applies to both parts of the Childcare Register). 05/05/2009

To improve the early years provision the registered person should:

- develop a system for recording information gathered from parents regarding children's starting points to make sure that activities support children's learning.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder has systems in place to record accidents and medication to the children. However, she has not obtained prior written permission for each and every medicine before any medication is given. In addition, she has not ensured that there is written permission for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment for each child. Children's records are not effectively maintained for all the children she cares for. For example, the childminder has not ensured that she has the essential records, including the name of the child, the home address and date of birth and she has not maintained the hours of attendance for each child. These are a breach of several specific legal requirements. Therefore, she is not effectively safeguarding most aspects of children's welfare.

The childminder's first aid certificate is up to date ensuring appropriate first aid treatment is given to the children. Her first aid box is easily accessible, although basic supplies are not always taken when going out for walks. The childminder has a sound knowledge of her policies and procedures, such as complaints, lost and uncollected children. She has a procedure for dealing with concerns and complaints including a system to ensure any concerns are recorded and acted upon. Children who are ill do not attend; this reduces the risk of cross infection. The childminder has not completed her self evaluation form, but through discussion she highlights some areas for future improvements, such as maintaining children's records and extending her outdoor play environment. She describes how she can make improvements and demonstrates an understanding of what she has achieved, such as implementing the observation and assessment records on children. The childminder updates her child care knowledge by attending courses, such as observations, assessments and planning. All children are included in the fire drill procedures. She explains her system to evacuate the premises in an

emergency and how older children know to stop, look and listen for traffic before crossing roads.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The childminder describes how she provides a sufficient range of opportunities for children to be active by using the local park or interactive toys, such as a 'Jack in the Box'. The childminder has not discussed or noted the child's individual capabilities in order to support their learning, although basic information is gathered regarding their daily routine. She uses a 'spider map' to highlight children's individual play plans. Their observations are adequately referenced to the early learning goals and she is continuing to develop a system to highlight their next stage of development. Children are supported when making choices as they choose between looking at story books and using ride on toys. For example, children mimic reading 'The Big Wide Mouth Frog' and copy the sounds the animals make. The storage containers are easily accessible, although not labelled to support younger children's self help skills or independence. Children play with a sufficient assortment of resources including a range of positive images of the world around us. Activities for children are adapted to their individual needs to support development and learning at their own pace.

Children are provided with healthy options and drinks are easily accessible throughout the day. The childminder describes how she uses 'no water gel' to ensure children follow positive hygiene practices and appropriate equipment is used when changing younger children's nappies. However, this 'gel' is not always used before children eat finger foods. She conducts written risk assessments inside, outside and on outings. Children are beginning to learn about their boundaries as the childminder gently reminds them not to climb on the settee. She praises them for their achievements and older children help to devise simple house rules. The childminder describes her responsibility in relation to protecting the welfare of the child. She is aware of the signs and symptoms of abuse and her child protection policy.

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.	3

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?	3
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?	4

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 in relation to children's daily hours of attendance, obtaining prior written permission to administer medication and maintaining children's records including the name, home address and date of birth.

05/05/2009

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 section of the report in relation to children's daily hours of attendance, obtaining prior written permission to administer medication and maintaining children's records including the name, home address and date of birth.

05/05/2009