

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number 110381
Inspection date 26/10/2009
Inspector Doreen Forsyth

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 has been registered since 1992. She lives with her husband, adult daughter and a lodger in a detached home in a small village near Thatcham in Berkshire. All of the home may be used for childcare. There is a large garden available for outside play when children are under the childminder's supervision.

The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and both the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register to care for up to six children under the age of eight; of these, three children may be in the early years age range. Currently there are five children on roll, of these, three are in the early years age group. They are all cared for on a part time basis. The childminder is also registered to offer overnight care to two children.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association. The family have five pet cats and some ducks in the lower part of the garden.

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is satisfactory.

This experienced childminder routinely meets the needs of all the children she cares for. She welcomes and supports all children and ensures that all children are helped to progress whatever their backgrounds. The childminder offers a suitable range of interesting activities that help children to learn, especially about the natural world. Children's welfare is appropriately promoted. The childminder has made many improvements since the last inspection and has a positive attitude towards the further improvement of her childminding service. She continues to increase her knowledge of the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) so that she can promote good outcomes for the children.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

To fully meet the specific requirements of the EYFS, the registered person must:

- maintain a record of the risk assessment clearly stating when it was carried out, by whom, date of review and any action taken (Documentation) 09/11/2009

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

- link the observations that are carried out on the children's progress to the steps towards the early learning goals.
- ensure the daily record of children's attendance is accurately maintained.

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

Since the last inspection the childminder has put into place many of the policies, procedures and records that are necessary to ensure children's safety and the efficient management of the Early Years Foundation Stage. However, although her home is generally safe, the children's safety is compromised as the childminder is not recording how she carries out risk assessments and the record of children's attendance is not accurately kept. The childminder has appropriate safeguarding children policies in place and is confident in the procedures she would follow if she had any child protection concerns. These procedures are shared fully with parents. The childminder has improved how she promotes children's health and well-being by obtaining relevant first aid training, and has reviewed hygiene arrangements by registering with the local environmental health department. All of the adults in the household have been suitably vetted; the childminder ensures that children are never alone with people who have not been vetted. She is aware that she must inform Ofsted of any changes to her circumstances.

Children mainly play in the conservatory which is used as a playroom; it is light, warm and attractively set out with an appropriate range of resources; the toys are well stored so that the children can develop their independence by choosing what they wish to play with. The toys include some that help the children to learn about different backgrounds and cultures. The childminder welcomes and values all children; she endeavours to provide an inclusive practice where the needs of children are met on an individual basis. The childminder has a strong partnership with parents; she completes a weekly information sheet for them outlining the children's activities and achievements. Parents can see the records she is keeping on the children's progress but do not add to them what they know about the children's learning at home. The childminder has made links with the pre-school that one of the children attends which helps to promote continuity of care.

The childminder has made improvements to her practice since the last inspection she is aware of some of the strengths and weaknesses in her provision and has identified targets for future improvement.

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

Overall, children are making suitable progress in their learning and development. The childminder offers children a range of varied and enjoyable activities, such as cooking, painting and playing with playdough. They especially enjoy exploring the childminder's large garden and helping to feed the ducks she keeps, going for walks in the local countryside and visiting a nearby common. The childminder is observing and recording the children's progress, but these observations are not linked to the stepping stones towards the early learning goals that ensure children learn in all the required areas. Children generally feel safe and secure with the childminder; they are confident and concentrate well on their play. They are very much at home and relate well to the childminder. Children are beginning to learn

about keeping themselves safe; they discuss road safety with the childminder when they are out and about and go for walks; they practise regular emergency evacuation procedures.

Children are beginning to show an understanding about healthy lifestyles; they are encouraged to eat healthily and have access to drinks throughout the day. They have opportunities to go outside for exercise and fresh air most days. Children can rest and sleep according to their individual needs. The childminder helps them to follow good hygiene routines such as washing their hands when necessary. The children play well together and behave well; the childminder praises the children's achievements and encourages them to share, take turns and consider the needs of others; she reminds them to use please and thank-you when appropriate. The childminder is helping the children to learn about the wider world; they enjoy marking special events such as St George's Day, Easter and Christmas. The childminder aims to help children to become active, inquisitive and independent learners.

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?	3
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement	3

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

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

The quality of the provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage

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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	3
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:

- undertake at least once in a calendar year a risk assessment of the premises and equipment, ensure all necessary measures are taken to minimise any identified risks (also applies to the voluntary part of the Childcare Register) 09/11/2009

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 above 09/11/2009