

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	250706
Inspection date	25/03/2009
Inspector	Lynn Denise Smith
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 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 was registered in 1998. She lives with her husband and three children aged 17 years, 16 years and 14 years close to Felixstowe. The whole of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The childminder drives to the local school to take and collect children. She takes children to the library and to the park. The childminder has regular links with other local childminders.

The childminder is registered to care for six children at any one time and is currently minding seven children, all of whom attend on a part-time basis. Three of the children are within the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). The childminder also offers care to children aged over five years to 12 years. This provision is registered on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register.

The childminder has two pet cats.

A low step to the main door provides access to the premises. The bathroom is situated on the first floor. The childminder provides parents with a written prospectus which provides them with details about her service.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is good. The childminder demonstrates a sound knowledge of the children's individual needs and effectively provides for their welfare requirements through clear policies and procedures. Children are safe and secure within the childminder's care and effective safeguarding knowledge ensures that they remain well-protected. They have opportunities to participate in an interesting range of activities, however, the daily information recorded about each child lacks evidence of the way in which the childminder is using observations to plan for individual children's needs. Regular monitoring of the provision provides the childminder with the opportunity to review her practices and identify any areas for improvement.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- ensure information provided for parents contains correct telephone numbers and contact advice
- make ongoing observations and assessments of each child's achievements and interests and use these to identify learning priorities and plan relevant and motivating learning experiences for each child.

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

- carry out a full risk assessment for each type of outing (Safeguarding and promoting children's welfare)

27/04/2009

The leadership and management of the early years provision

Children are cared for by an experienced childminder who endeavours to update her knowledge and understanding of childcare through training and current literature. She has regular contact with other childminders and is an active member of the local group, enabling her to share good practice and discuss changes in childcare legislation.

All adults living on the premises are appropriately vetted and proof of their checks are held on file. Children are suitably safeguarded as the childminder demonstrates a sound understanding of her responsibilities with regards to protecting the children in her care. The childminder's home is clean and well-organised to provide safe and secure play opportunities for children. A daily safety check ensures that the areas to be used by children are safe and written risk assessments ensure that ongoing safety remains a priority. The childminder is, however, not recording risk assessments for outings in line with the requirements of the EYFS.

Clear written policies and procedures are in place to support the childminder's practices and are effectively shared with parents, however, the complaints policy for parents contains the wrong telephone number for Ofsted. The partnership with parents and other settings providing for the children within the EYFS are effective and enable the childminder to share relevant information about the children progress and achievements. The childminder has entered into a culture of self-evaluation and identified through the Ofsted self-evaluation form, areas that she would like to progress and improve within her service. She is committed to developing her service to ensure that she is providing good quality care and education for the families within her care.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children's welfare needs are effectively promoted through the childminder's policies and well-organised practices. They learn and develop at their own pace and are actively supported by the childminder throughout their minded day. Children develop knowledge and understanding about keeping themselves healthy and safe as they follow the childminder's clear directions and guidance. For example they understand the importance of hand washing to reduce the spread of germs. Children enjoy a range of well-balanced meals and snacks at the childminder's home and have free access to drinking water at all times. Children are busy an active and enjoy experiencing physical activities when they visit the local parks and playgrounds.

Children benefit from having access to a newly built conservatory within the childminder's home, which affords them a good amount of clear floor space to extend their play. The room is made bright and welcoming as the childminder has

placed colourful posters around the walls. Children are able to make some choices over their play once the childminder has presented toys and resources at their height. The childminder's garden is currently not being used for childminding purposes as it contains debris and building materials from the new building.

Children are settled and content in the childminder's care. They approach her with ease and enjoy the interaction they receive from her. Children understand the house rules within the childminder's home and participate in games and activities which enable them to develop a sound understanding about sharing and being kind to each other. The childminder's commitment to providing an inclusive provision ensures that all of the children in her care have their needs met on an individual basis. Parents are asked to share relevant information with the childminder about their children's interests, starting points and home backgrounds.

Children participate in an interesting range of activities which enable them to explore all six areas of learning. They are confident talkers and actively encouraged the younger children to develop their language and communication skills through lively discussions. Children enjoy participating in creative activities some of which enable them to express themselves freely and other which are planned to correspond with a forthcoming event such as Easter. Children have fun dressing up and becoming princesses, Sleeping Beauty, Cinderella and policemen. They enter their roles enthusiastically and develop their own games. They are very helpful children and have fun ironing their clothes with the play iron and ironing board. Children's daily activities are effectively recorded in individual 'Learning Journey', however, the information being recorded is providing a diary of what the children have been doing. The information is not currently being extended to observe and assess the children's activities and progress and the observations are not being used to inform future individual planning for each child.

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?	3
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

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.