

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	255852
Inspection date	17/09/2008
Inspector	Deirdra Keating
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 1997. She lives with her husband and two children aged eight and thirteen in Long Stratton, Norfolk. The whole of the property is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The premises are accessible via the front entrance which has a low step.

A maximum of five children may attend the setting at any one time. There are currently five children attending who are within the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) years. The childminder also offers care to children aged over five years to 12 years. This provision is registered by Ofsted on the compulsory and voluntary childcare registers.

The childminder walks to the local school to take and collect children. She attends the local parent and toddler group with the children.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The childminder effectively meets the needs of the children in the Early Years Foundation Stage.

The environment is well organised and inclusively meets the individual needs of all the children who attend. Good systems are in place to ensure regular communication between parents and other providers. Children are confident and assured, and have developed good relationships with the childminder in her welcoming, family home. The childminder has a general understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage, and children make good progress in their learning and development. However, she would like to attend EYFS training to enable her to fully develop children's records of learning and maintain continuous improvement.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- update knowledge of the Early Years Foundation Stage and develop records regarding the learning and development of each child.

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

- ensure that written permission is requested for each child to the seeking of any necessary emergency medical advice or treatment.

30/09/2008

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder has completed some training and is committed to developing her knowledge and skills by accessing further courses. Written policies and procedures are carefully maintained to ensure children's ongoing welfare, care and safety. These are implemented well in practice by the childminder who strongly promotes children's understanding of safety to ensure their overall wellbeing. Children receive high quality care and attention from the experienced childminder who takes pride in meeting each child's individual needs. Consequently, children are settled and secure in the well organised and homely environment. All adults in the household have undergone checks to ensure they are suitable to have regular contact with children and the childminder is secure in her knowledge of safeguarding children.

The childminder is sufficiently committed to improving the early years provision and has acted upon one of the recommendations raised at the last inspection, however, they have not all been fully addressed. The childminder is very careful that each child is secure in their own identity whilst in her care. She proactively sources information and photographs from parents and carers to value each child as an individual and celebrate their own cultural identity. The childminder dedicates flexible time daily to ensure parents receive enough information about their child at the end of the day. This is valued by parents who may also receive information from the childminder and other provisions that their children attend. Effective links have been fostered with other providers by the means of a message book, this provides valuable information towards the good continuity of care for individual children. The childminder has sound systems in place to monitor the quality of the provision. Parental feedback is sought and a self-evaluation process has been completed to ensure further improvements can be achieved.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The childminder provides effectively for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage. Children are making good progress towards the early learning goals in the well planned environment. Space and resources are extremely well organised enabling children to self-select items of their choice. The childminder knows the children well, observing their play and providing resources and activities that motivate and interest them. This helps them progress well in their learning which the childminder observes, however, records of childrens learning are in the early stages of development. The welcoming, clean environment provides ample room for children to move resources and develop their ideas comfortably on the floor. Children solve problems as they fit together a wooden train track and build a train station. They enjoy cooking where they are able to explore the different ingredients and make a mess. Children are developing their number skills well as they count cars and the childminder supports children well as they progress in their numeric abilities.

Children enjoy a healthy lifestyle as the childminder proactively promotes outdoor play in her well maintained and equipped garden. This houses a good range of equipment including a slide, ride-on toys and seasonal equipment that is presented well and looks inviting. Children enjoy healthy snacks consisting of freshly chopped fruit and join in with the family meals around the table which provide a valuable

social occasion. Children learn to treat one another respectfully and share toys as the childminder has developed a fair and consistent approach to encourage sharing. Toys brought into the childminder's home are 'sharing toys' giving children the opportunity to leave special items at home and learn how to cooperate and take turns. The childminder teaches children about how to behave in ways that are safe for themselves and others. Good explanations are given to young children regarding climbing on the furniture. Older children are developing an understanding of the dangers of fire through a visit from the local fire engine and crew. The childminder has a very good working relationship with parents and carers and ensures detailed information continues to be obtained in order to fully support the individual children in her care. However, written consents have not been requested from all parents in order to provide future emergency medical treatment or advice.

Annex A: record of inspection judgements

The key inspection judgements and what they mean

Outstanding: this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality

Good: this aspect of the provision is strong

Satisfactory: this aspect of the provision is sound

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

Leadership and management

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

Quality and standards

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

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

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.