

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	257021
Inspection date	11/06/2009
Inspector	Sandra Hornsby
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 has been registered since 1993. She lives with her partner, and two children, aged 12 and seven years, in Ravensthorpe, near to Peterborough city centre. The premises is a three storey property and children have use of the ground floor and, on occasions, the lounge on the first floor is used for sleeping or quiet activities. There is a fully enclosed rear garden available for outdoor play. There is a stepped access to the house.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children under eight years at any one time, of whom no more than three may be in the early years age range. She is currently minding two children in this age group on a part-time basis. She also offers care to children aged over five years to 11 years. This provision is registered by Ofsted on the compulsory and voluntary parts of the childcare register.

The family have two cats and a bird. The local pre-school and primary school are within walking distance, as are many other child-orientated activity groups, and places of interest that the childminder makes use of. The childminder meets regularly with other local childminders.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is satisfactory. Children access a warm and welcoming environment where they make satisfactory progress and their learning and development is generally well supported. The childminder recognises the uniqueness of each child through information from parents and observations carried out. She makes an effort to support children's individuality. She has a sound relationship with parents and there is continuity of care. Appropriate information is shared with parents to make sure they are aware of how their children will be cared for. The childminder is enthusiastic about her childminding, she looks at what she does and is keen to implement changes to bring about improvements for the children.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- undertake regular observations, and use these to plan and provide experiences that are appropriate to each child's stage of development to support their progress towards the early learning goals.

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

- ensure parents are provided with the following information; a procedure to be followed in the event of a parent failing to collect a child at the appointed

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- time (Safeguarding and promoting children's welfare)
- make available to parents a procedure to be followed if they have a complaint (Safeguarding and promoting children's welfare).

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The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder has a collection of policies and procedures that support the safety of children and efficient management of the provision. She collects data from parents that enables her to care for children with consideration to their individual needs. Although information from parents does not include children's initial development stages, the childminder is keen to share her findings with parents about children's learning and development. The childminder and parents share observations and diaries and continuous dialogue and written communication help to provide continuity of care. Children's learning styles are identified and parents and the childminder work together to best support the individual children and their changing needs. The childminder has systems in place that enable her to work alongside the local pre-school. This means children will also receive continuity of care in all Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) settings they use.

The childminder is enthusiastic and has addressed the recommendations from her last inspection. She has taken steps to evaluate her provision, and is working to fully identify and address strengths and weaknesses. She has managed some tasks she identified, but is aware she needs to implement more systems to address weaknesses in her planning and observation. She is enthusiastic about making positive changes and is keen for children to make good progress.

The childminder has a sound knowledge and understanding of safeguarding issues and has a procedure to follow if she has concerns. She records accidents, medication and any existing injuries children sustain. She has all relevant contact details, information and recording documents to use if children need protection. The childminder offers an environment that is safe and supportive where all relevant information is available and inclusive practice is promoted.

Risk assessments are effective in identifying hazards around the home and the childminder is mindful of daily risks that children come into contact with. She supervises the children to ensure they remain safe and secure.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The childminder has sound knowledge of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) learning and developing requirements. Children have opportunities to use an interesting learning environment where they are happy and confident. The environment is child-orientated with colourful and good quality posters on the walls and a good selection of toys and equipment. Children make independent choices, enjoy their environment and make the most from the resources. Children show an enthusiasm to learning as they become engrossed in their play. The childminder

engages children and they enjoy a healthy caring relationship. There is an element of flexible planning, which include some adult-led activities. For example, art and creative play, cooking and outdoor play. Children have opportunities to make tents, playing on the trampoline and use balls in the garden. Posters on the wall and a good selection of books support mathematics and early literacy and reading skills. This is because children see numbers, labels and writing all around the room in different contexts. Children also have a good selection of resources and equipment to enable their appreciation of culture, diversity and acknowledge differences and the world around them. The children are active and interested in their play, they enthusiastically press buttons and handle lots of equipment and explore their environment. They run cars along the floor and become totally engrossed in their activities occasionally looking for the childminder's whereabouts. Although the childminder is developing systems to observe children and identify next steps, these are not regular enough or used in planning to support children's progress effectively. The children's starting points have not been formed and development not monitored regularly enough, however, children are still making satisfactory progress.

Suitable arrangements are undertaken to safeguard children's welfare and promote their well-being. Children's health is protected as the childminder has written information about children's dietary and medical needs. She has suitable arrangements to protect children from germs and cross-infection by hand washing before and after food, and she can take necessary action in an emergency because she has a current first aid qualification. Children have regular physical play, they dance and join in with music and playing instruments. Children go for walks to school each day. The setting is suitable and safe and the childminder addresses hazards and takes action to prevent accidents. Children participate in fire drills and learn about keeping themselves and others safe as they move about the home being mindful of the younger children. They are learning to play alongside each other and share resources and, because they have contact with the cats and bird, learning about caring and being kind to the animals. Children are able to make choices and decisions about what they do as they use appropriate equipment and activities to support the skills for their economic well-being.

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?	3
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?	3
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?	3

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?	3
How well are children helped to stay safe?	3
How well are children helped to be healthy?	3
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:

- ensure there is a written statement of procedures to be followed in relation to complaints which relate to the requirements of the Childcare Register and which a parent makes in writing or by email (Procedures for dealing with complaints, also applies to the voluntary part of the childcare register) 29/06/2009
- ensure copies of the written statements of safeguarding procedures and complaints procedures are available to parents (Providing information to parents, also applies to the voluntary part of the Childcare register) 29/06/2009

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 stated in the compulsory part of the childcare register (Procedures for dealing with complaints) 29/06/2009
- take action as stated in the compulsory part of the childcare register (Providing information to parents). 29/06/2009