

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	319676
Inspection date	09/03/2009
Inspector	Linda Filewood
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 1988. She lives with her husband in Morley, a suburb of Leeds, close to shops, parks, schools and public transport links. The whole of the childminder's home is used for childminding, with the exception of the bedrooms. She has a cat as a pet.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding three children under five years. 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 childminder collects children from the local school and attends several toddler groups on a regular basis.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is satisfactory. The childminder provides a bright, welcoming environment, in which children's welfare is suitably promoted. Each child makes good progress towards the early learning goals as the childminder is fully aware of their individual capabilities and uses their interests to support their development and learning. Good partnerships with parents and established links with other local provisions ensure that the childminder consistently meets the needs of all children but not all parental permissions and written procedures required under legislation are in place. The childminder is beginning to make some use of self-evaluation to identify key strengths and areas for development within her provision and is improving the outcomes for children as she puts into practice information gained from courses she has attended.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- use the ongoing observational assessments of each child's achievements and interests to provide relevant and motivating learning experiences that meet each child's needs.

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

- make available to parents a written statement that provides details of the procedure to be followed if they have a complaint (Safeguarding and welfare)(also applies to both parts of the Childcare Register) 30/03/2009
- request written parental permission, at the time of the child's admission to the provision, to the seeking of any necessary emergency medical advice or treatment in the future. (Safeguarding and welfare) 25/03/2009

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder is developing a working knowledge and understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage framework. She satisfactorily uses a comprehensive range of written policies and procedures to support her working practice and shares them with parents. However, no complaints policy is in place to advise them of the correct procedures to follow should they have a concern about the care their children receive and this is required under regulation. She shows clear commitment to developing her knowledge in order to improve her practice and outcomes for each child. For example, after attending a course on food safety she reviewed her practices and procedures, especially when washing the children's hands before eating. Recommendations made at the last inspection have been satisfactorily met and the newly set up evaluation system for the provision is beginning to help the childminder identify areas for future improvements.

The childminder has secure working relationships with parents and they work together to address their child's individual needs and concerns. She has good links with other childminders as part of a support network. She often joins with them to share good practice and the children enjoy playing with larger groups at the park for games of rounders or football. The childminder has a long standing relationship with other local providers and shares information about children so that they work together providing consistent support for each child.

The childminder has a secure understanding of her role and responsibilities in keeping children safe and is aware of the local child protection procedures to follow, should she have a concern. She updates her knowledge on safeguarding the children's welfare by attending child protection training. Most parental permissions to support children's welfare are in place, apart from their written permission for the childminder to seek any necessary emergency medical advice or treatment, should it be required, which is a regulatory requirement.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children make good progress overall in their learning and development and the childminder fully utilises the local amenities, such as parks and childminding groups. This helps children develop positive qualities, especially in their social development, to enable them to contribute effectively later in life. Children play in a warm, bright environment and new children settle quickly as the childminder has a positive attitude and forms good relationships with children and their parents. A good start has been made to children's profiles, which include photographs, drawings and written observations of each child's achievements and interests. However, the childminder has yet to fully focus her planning on the identified next steps in their development to make sure each child receives a learning experience tailored for their individual needs. Children initiate activities and make decisions regarding their play as they explore the wide range of resources. The childminder is knowledgeable about their abilities and preferences of the individual children in

her care. She caters well for these and uses some of the Early Years Foundation Stage guidance documents to support her in covering the six areas of learning.

Children's speaking and listening skills are developing well as they chatter to the childminder during play. She asks them questions, particularly when they play with a new jigsaw, which helps them sustain concentration and uses positional language to clarify their thinking about where each piece fits. The children receive plenty of praise for their achievements; this raises their self-esteem and gives them confidence to persevere. Young children developing physical skills receive good support and the childminder discusses their progress with their parents. Older children are becoming independent and walk up the stairs confidently to access the toilet facilities and know to shut the safety gate behind them to keep younger children safe. Plenty of fresh air during daily outdoor play supports their healthy life-style and the childminder uses the children's interest, for example in cars, to count and look at colours during walks. They identify the 'green man' as being a safe time to cross the road and those children who are not strapped into a pushchair, are beginning to understand that they must hold onto it at times to keep them safe.

All children are beginning to understand good behaviour and boundaries, be polite and say 'thank you'. The childminder complements older children's activities at nursery and school and often extends her resources to support them. For instance, a new range of age appropriate books on different religions means they can talk about what they have learnt at school and they can take them home to share with parents.

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?	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?	2
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?	2
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	2
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?	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:

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 detailed in the early years section of the report (CR7.1) 30/03/2009

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 detailed in the early years section of the report (CR7.1) 30/03/2009

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.