

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	319861
Inspection date	16/12/2008
Inspector	Dawn Bonica Brown
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 1993. She lives with her husband and two adult children in a detached property in Leeds, West Yorkshire. The childminder is registered to care for children on the Early Years Register and the voluntary and compulsory parts of the Childcare Register. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's home is used for childminding purposes. There is a fully enclosed garden to the rear of the property that is used for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children and currently cares for eight children, on a part-time basis, of whom five are on the Early Years Register, two children are aged under eight years and one is aged over eight years. Children attend for a variety of sessions throughout the week and during school holidays. The childminder takes and collects children from the local school and attends a local childminding group.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and has achieved a Silver Award from the Leeds Quality Assurance Scheme. The childminder is also a member of the West Yorkshire Police childcare network.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The childminder meets the needs of all the children in her care. She recognises their unique abilities and fosters their development in all aspects of learning. Her policies and procedures are effective in meeting the welfare needs of children in almost all areas. They are available to parents and the childminder works with them efficiently to ensure that children reach their full potential. The childminder provides an inclusive practice and uses a range of methods to help her to reflect positively on the service provided, which in some areas is excellent.

The childminder provides a learning environment that is accessible to all children and welcomes them into a warm and inviting environment, which sets the scene for their enjoyment of the day. She continuously strives for development and future plans are well targeted to bring about positive outcomes for children.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- ensure that all new procedures are risk assessed
- improve children's access to the range of books available.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder maintains the records, policies and procedures required for the safe and efficient management of the Early Years Foundation Stage extremely well.

She maintains confidentiality rigorously. The childminder updates her qualifications to ensure that she remains up to date on new developments in childcare and retains a current and relevant first aid certificate.

The childminder provides high quality care and education for the children in her care by attending regular training and by seeking the opinions of children, parents and other childcare professionals. For example, she has successfully undertaken the local authority quality assurance programme. She demonstrates a good understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of her provision and reflects positively on the care provided so that continuous improvement in all aspects of her service is maintained. This is particularly evident in her delivery of the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework.

Children's safety is given very high priority. The childminder has undertaken significant training in child protection and retains the correct information to identify and report concerns. Children wear fluorescent jackets over their coats as they learn about the hazards of traffic on their daily walks. Written risk assessments are updated regularly and the childminder implements emergency evacuation drills, which are recorded. However, minor changes regarding safety, such as moving the position of the fire blanket, are not consistently assessed for risks.

The childminder maintains a very clean and tidy environment and follows robust hygiene routines so that children become independent in their personal hygiene at an early stage. They understand how poor hygiene can affect them because the childminder explains it to them carefully and consistently in ways that they can easily understand. For example, she explains to a child that the germs will not go away unless bubbles of soap are made when washing hands.

The childminder has established excellent relationships with parents so that children are well settled and make rapid progress in her care. Parents express very high opinions of the childminder and praise her standards of care and education in glowing terms, stating that she provides care that is 'very much above many others'. For instance, they really appreciate the way the childminder interacts with the children to promote good behaviour. Significantly, parents praise the way in which the childminder monitors children's development and helps them to see major progress.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The childminder provides a warm, welcoming environment which is rich in resources, almost all of which are well organised to promote children's independence and all-round development. They select toys of their choice and engage in cooperative games, such as watching the gravitational pull of different objects as they take turns to slide large pebbles and cars down a multi-storage garage toy. Books play an important role in the setting. For instance, the childminder provides a small selection, rotated on a daily basis, from which children take great delight in selecting stories they want to listen to. However, opportunities for the more-able children to gain greater independence in their choice of books could be improved further.

The childminder provides planned, purposeful play and exploration, both in and out of doors, with a balance of adult-led and child-led activities. For example, children learn about the properties of food in a child-friendly way through a wide range of activities. The underpinning knowledge and understanding gained through preparing their own food, trying new tastes and exploring the changing properties of food through the cooking process helps children to understand how diet can affect their health. It also helps them to make informed choices about what they eat.

Children's progress is monitored very effectively through sensitive observations which ensure that children achieve as much as they can in relation to their starting points and capabilities. For example, highly skilled observations with annotated photographs identify significant milestones in children's development. These are detailed and outline the next steps in their progress and how the childminder intends to promote this. Parents participate in the observations and make comments in their children's profiles. Excellent planning ensures that each child receives an enjoyable and challenging experience across all areas of learning. For example, the more-able children attend weekly sessions with the childminder in the library to practise their computer skills, whilst younger children learn about modern technology through activities, such as using the cassette recorder to record their own voices.

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?	1
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?	2
How well are children helped to stay safe?	1
How well are children helped to be healthy?	2
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	1
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 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.