

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	401210
Inspection date	11/12/2008
Inspector	Linda Cook
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 has been registered since 1995. She lives with her family in a village on the outskirts of Northallerton. The house is situated within easy reach of local amenities, such as schools, shops and parks. The whole of the ground floor and the bathroom on the first floor of the childminder's home are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed rear garden for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time. She is registered on the Early Years Register and on both the voluntary and compulsory parts of the Childcare Register. She is currently caring for five children; all attend part time. The childminder takes and collects children from local schools and attends local parent/toddler groups.

The family have a pet cat and the childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

All children are warmly welcomed and cared for in an inclusive environment so they feel valued and develop good self-esteem. Close liaison with parents helps the childminder to promote children's welfare effectively and meet their individual care needs well. The childminder pays particular attention to promoting children's awareness of their own safety and well being. Although she has started to introduce a system of self-assessment this is not yet sufficiently developed to effectively plan for continuous improvement. Observations of children are not yet used consistently to fully promote challenge and clearly plan the next stages in children's development. Planning is under development and does not sufficiently cover all areas of learning as the childminder still continues to develop her knowledge and understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- develop knowledge of the learning and development requirements and how the activities provided for children support their development in each of the six areas of learning.
- ensure observations and assessments are used to monitor children's progress and use these to plan the next steps in children's individual learning and development
- continue to develop a system of self-assessment.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

Children are warmly welcomed into the childminders home, she provides a safe and secure environment for the children in her care who are happy and settled.

The childminder has a sound understanding of her role in safeguarding children. Most of the required records, policies and procedures are implemented effectively to promote children's welfare. The childminder completes informal safety checks on a regular basis to help to ensure that children are kept safe. However, a written safeguarding policy and risk assessments are not established in line with the new requirements of the Compulsory and Voluntary Childcare registers.

The childminder is aware of the weaknesses in her knowledge of how she links the activities she provides for the children to the six areas of learning. However, she has identified the action she will take to enable her to develop her knowledge of this and gain confidence in assessing and planning to support children's progress. The childminder communicates well with parents regarding children's routines and individual requirements. This enables her to offer them continuity of care and meet their individual welfare needs well.

She demonstrates a commitment to continuous improvement as she has successfully addressed recommendations from the last inspection and started to identify strengths and areas for development in her practice. She has begun to introduce to a more formal system of self-evaluation, however, this not yet sufficiently developed to be fully effective.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children demonstrate a secure bond with the childminder as they readily approach her for assistance, comfort and are eager to involve her in their play. The childminder supports the children well, she follows their interests and gets down to their level to engage them in play. For example, as she joins in their role play activities, pretending to make pancakes in the small world kitchen. They children develop good language skills as they talk to the childminder about what they are doing and she offers them additional vocabulary. They count and name the colours of small world vehicles and develop early numerical language as they identify small and large spoons and recognise and name simple shapes. They develop their creative skills as they paint and enjoy gluing and sticking activities. Children are provided with regular activities to develop the physical skills as they play in the garden and enjoy trips to local play parks.

Children are encouraged to join in and learn about taking turns and sharing, which promotes their personal, social and emotional development. The childminder gets to know the children well and she adapts activities and routines to meet the children's individual needs. She is skilled at managing children's behaviour. Strategies, such as distraction and diversion are consistently used and children know when they have done something well because the childminder offers lots of praise. She is consistent and fair in her approach and children respond positively, learn right from wrong and develop good manners.

The environment is welcoming and toys are organised both indoors and outdoors to encourage children's independence in making choices in their play and learning. Children play with a range of toys that are safe, suitable and age appropriate. The childminder explains why rules are needed, recognising the importance of involving

children actively in managing their own safety. They learn how to cross roads safely on their trips out and practise the emergency evacuation procedure, helping to keep them safe in an emergency. They have access to regular fresh air and exercise, and learn about the importance of healthy eating through the nutritious snacks and meals provided. The sickness policy is formally shared with parents to minimise children's exposure to illness. Good hygiene routines followed by the childminder and the children are effective in minimising the spread of infection.

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?	2
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?	3
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:

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:

- complete a written risk assessment which covers all areas of the provision, including outings and is regularly reviewed, also applies to Voluntary Childcare Register(VCR) 30/01/2009
- provide a written safeguarding policy which meets Local Safeguarding Children Board guidelines, also applies to VCR. 30/01/2009

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:

- as above 30/01/2009

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.