

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	505166
Inspection date	22/03/2011
Inspector	Elaine McDonnell

Type of setting	Childminder
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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.

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Description of the childminding

The childminder was registered in June 1993. She lives with her husband in Saltburn by the Sea. The childminder's home is accessed by three steps at the front of the house. The couple have a dog, which minded children have supervised access to. The home is close to many local amenities, such as a sure start centre, school, beach, shops, woods, library and play parks.

The whole ground floor of the house plus the toilet, bathroom and a bedroom on the first floor are used for childminding purposes. A second bedroom will be included in the registration in the near future. There is an enclosed garden available at the rear of the property where children do planting and growing activities. They visit social groups, the beach, woods and play park for large physical play and activities.

The childminder is included on the Early Years Register and also on the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. She may care for up to six children aged under eight years at any one time, of whom no more than three may be in the early years age range. There are currently 13 children on roll, of whom four are in the early years age range. All children attend on a part time basis.

The childminder currently provides care Monday to Thursday, between the hours of 7.30am and 5.30pm, all year round. She escorts children to and from the local school and attends social groups on a regular basis.

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is inadequate.

The provision is effective in meeting most needs of children in the early years age range and they make satisfactory progress in their learning and development. However, the childminder demonstrates a limited knowledge and understanding of safeguarding issues, including possible signs of abuse or neglect. Children are cared for in a warm environment but the layout of furniture and use of space does not ensure that space ratios are maintained at all times. Not all records required for the safe and efficient management of the provision are available or up-to-date. Inclusion is appropriately promoted and the childminder adequately evaluates her provision to support improvement.

Overall, the early years provision requires significant improvement. The registered person is given a Notice to Improve that sets out actions to be carried out.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

To comply with the requirements of the EYFS the registered person must take the following action by the specified date:

- provide evidence that an appropriate first aid course has been successfully completed (Qualifications, training knowledge and skills) (also applies to the voluntary and compulsory parts of the Childcare Register) 05/04/2011
- adapt the layout of furniture in the lounge to ensure that minimum space requirements are maintained (Suitable premises, equipment and environment) 22/03/2011
- increase knowledge and understanding of safeguarding children issues, including the possible signs of abuse and neglect (Safeguarding and promoting children's welfare) (also applies to the voluntary and compulsory parts of the Childcare Register) 22/04/2011
- ensure that appropriate arrangements are made to ensure safety and meet the needs of the children, with particular regard to supervision during daily routines (Safeguarding and promoting children's welfare) (also applies to the voluntary and compulsory parts of the Childcare Register) 22/03/2011

To improve the early years provision the registered person should:

- use information gained from observing children to inform planning to help move them onto the next stage in their individual learning
- provide a varied range of programmable resources and items which positively reflect the cultures and beliefs of others to promote children's knowledge and understanding of the world
- update policy and procedure documents to ensure they relate to the Early Years Foundation Stage Statutory Framework and Guidance.

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder demonstrates a limited knowledge and understanding of safeguarding children issues and of the possible signs of abuse and neglect. This does not fully support or promote children's welfare. She has a satisfactory attitude towards personal development and has attended additional training sessions since the last inspection. The topics that she covered included engaging boys in the Early Years Foundation Stage and healthier food and special diets. There is no certificated evidence that the childminder has maintained her first aid qualification.

The deployment of resources is adequate and children have appropriate access to some toys and equipment. However, the layout of the lounge and organisation of activities does not ensure that space ratios are effectively maintained at all times. Equality and diversity are appropriately promoted and all children are included and involved. The childminder obtains useful written information from parents about each child, which is effectively used as a basis for their individual care.

Appropriate risk assessments are conducted and relevant steps are taken to ensure a safe and secure indoor and outdoor environment for children. However, the supervision of children is not appropriate during some daily routines, such as when younger children are taken into the bathroom with the childminder.

Appropriate self-evaluation procedures are in place to support the continuous improvement of the provision. The recommendation from the previous inspection has been addressed, which promotes confidentiality of information. Most records and documents required for the safe and efficient management of the provision are available, however, not all of the childminder's policies and procedures have been updated to reflect the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage.

The childminder works in partnership with parents and carers and they are kept informed of their child's progress through regular discussions and access to their child's development file. Parents have good access to the policies and procedures of the provision. The childminder also works in partnership with a local nursery school that some children will move onto and she attends play sessions held there, to support children's transition.

The quality and standards of the early years provision and outcomes for children

The childminder appropriately observes and records children's learning and development. However, the information is not effectively used in future planning to help move individual children onto the next stage in their learning.

Children present themselves as feeling safe and secure in the setting and have a positive relationship with the childminder. They are well behaved and the childminder demonstrates a good knowledge and understanding of how to manage behaviour effectively. She has a very calm manner and promotes a calm and friendly environment. Children begin to learn to keep themselves safe as they are involved in fire drills and they learn about road safety during walks in the local area.

Children's health is well promoted. The home is clean and good hygiene procedures are implemented. Children receive varied and nutritious healthy food and snacks and lunch time is a very relaxed, enjoyable and sociable occasion. Children learn about healthy living through discussions and activities and have regular access to outdoor play activities. They demonstrate good communication and language skills and thoroughly enjoy stories read by the childminder. Children have opportunities for creative and painting activities, mainly at social groups which they visit on a regular basis.

Children have appropriate opportunities to develop their problem solving, reasoning and numeracy skills, as they take part in simple construction activities and count buttons on their coat. They have limited access to a range of

programmable resources and toys which positively reflect the culture and beliefs of others. Children's knowledge and understanding of the wider world is mainly promoted through outdoor activities as they play outside in different weathers and shop for healthy food. They are also offered the opportunity to plant, nurture, collect, prepare and eat vegetables from the childminder's garden.

Photographs show that children have interesting opportunities for mark making, such as making hand prints and other symbols in wet sand at the beach. Small physical skills are promoted as children participate in threading and cutting activities. This also helps to promote their independence and confidence. They develop their ability to build relationships and make friends as they visit different social groups on a regular basis.

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

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

How well does the setting meet the needs of the children in the Early Years Foundation Stage?	4
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement	3

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the Early Years Foundation Stage	4
The effectiveness of leadership and management in embedding ambition and driving improvement	3
The effectiveness with which the setting deploys resources	4
The effectiveness with which the setting promotes equality and diversity	3
The effectiveness of safeguarding	4
The effectiveness of the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement	3
The effectiveness of partnerships	3
The effectiveness of the setting's engagement with parents and carers	3

The quality of the provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage

The quality of the provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage	3
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Outcomes for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage

Outcomes for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage	3
The extent to which children achieve and enjoy their learning	3
The extent to which children feel safe	4
The extent to which children adopt healthy lifestyles	3
The extent to which children make a positive contribution	3
The extent to which children develop skills for the future	3

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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 specified in the Early Years section of the report (Qualifications, training, knowledge and skills) 05/04/2011
- take action as specified in the Early Years section of the report (Safeguarding and promoting children's welfare) 22/03/2011

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 specified in the Early Years section of the report (Qualifications, training, knowledge and skills) 05/04/2011
- take action as specified in the Early Years section of the report (Safeguarding and promoting children's welfare) 22/03/2011