

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY102137
Inspection date	15/01/2009
Inspector	Melanie Arnold
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).

Children only attend this setting before and/or after the school day and/or during the school holidays. The judgements in this report reflect the quality of early years provision offered to children during those periods.

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 2001. She lives with her husband and one child in a village close to Gainsborough, Lincolnshire. The whole ground floor of the property is used for childminding, with toilet facilities located on the first floor. There is an enclosed, secure garden for outside play. The premises are accessible by one step and there is parking available at the front of the property.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children under eight years at any one time. There are currently eight children on roll, four of whom are within the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). The childminder also cares for older children and is registered by Ofsted on the compulsory and voluntary Childcare Register. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Children's welfare is promoted through the childminder's mainly effective practices and procedures. All children are valued and respected as individuals because the childminder works in partnership with parents, carers and other providers to ensure the integration of their care and learning experiences. The childminder provides children with a good range of hands on learning experiences in line with their developmental needs, which ensures all children are fully supported and enabled to make good progress in their learning and development. The childminder is mainly aware of her strengths and areas for future development, however, she has yet to fully implement a clear system of self-evaluation to ensure all aspects of her provision are fully monitored.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- ensure all essential records are taken on outings
- develop further the process of self-evaluation to fully identify the setting's strengths and priorities for development that will improve the quality of provision for all children.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder has effective policies and procedures in place, which she mainly implements well to ensure children's welfare, care and learning are promoted. For example, the clear child equal opportunities policy contributes to an inclusive environment being promoted where all children are valued and respected as individuals and the child protection policy and record of risk assessments contribute to effectively maintaining children's health and safety. The childminder has made improvements since her last inspection by ensuring all parents complete

a permission form relating to obtaining emergency medical treatment. However, during outings the childminder does not include this form with the otherwise clear information she takes, to fully ensure children's well-being is protected at all times. All required documentation and records are comprehensively completed, stored with regard to maintaining confidentiality and used to promote the safe and efficient management of the EYFS.

Children's welfare is effectively promoted through the childminder maintaining a current first aid certificate and completing a Level 3 qualification in childcare. The childminder organises her environment well, making sure children have access to a good range of developmentally appropriate toys and resources, which helps to promote their learning and development. Children benefit because the childminder works in partnership with parents and carers, sharing clear information to ensure children's individual needs are continually met. The childminder strives to make continuous improvements to her setting and is beginning to develop a system of self-evaluation to ensure all aspects of her provision are fully monitored.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children are effectively supported and helped to make progress in all areas of learning as they freely access a good range of developmentally appropriate toys and resources and they enjoy participating in a good range of hands on learning experiences both in and outside. For example, children make patterns and marks in corn flour, they explore jelly, chocolate chips and violet balls, discovering different textures through touch, taste and smell and they learn to problem solve and count when playing memory games, threading and completing shape sorters. Activities are adapted to ensure each child can participate at their level, which helps them to become active learners. They are continually challenged to think because the childminder asks a good range of questions while they play.

Planning systems are used to introduce children to new experiences, while also taking account of their interests. For example, through discussion, looking at books and colouring pictures children show a good awareness of what items of clothing they should wear when it is either cold or hot. The children have also enjoyed completing a weather map of the United Kingdom, where they identify major areas like Scotland and Wales on the map, as well as where their own village is located. They then position pictures of different weather onto the map, which the childminder discusses with them. The children have shown a continued interest in this activity so the childminder has allowed them to freely access the map at any time. This has helped to develop children's knowledge and understanding of the world. The childminder uses an effective system to record observations of children, linking these back to the areas of learning to identify children's next steps, to ensure they are continually challenged to make progress.

Children are safeguarded and their welfare promoted through the childminder's effective practices. They are cared for in a secure environment, where potential hazards have been identified and minimised. Good hygiene practices and a clear illness policy help to maintain a hygienic environment where children's health is

protected. They further benefit from the provision of nutritious meals and snacks, which fully meet their dietary requirements and promotes their well-being. They learn about maintaining their own health and safety through regularly practising the fire evacuation procedure and through daily discussions. For example, through discussion children have become aware of the importance of practicing good hand washing routines and they are now developing their awareness of why it is important to drink lots of fluid throughout the day. Children are continually reminded to observe other children while they play to help prevent accidental injuries. They are also encouraged to play co-operatively, behave well and help each other, which provides a secure foundation for their future learning and development.

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?	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?	2
How well are children helped to stay safe?	2
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?	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
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The provider confirms that the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register are:	Met
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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.