

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY218946
Inspection date	04/06/2009
Inspector	Christine Holmes
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 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 2004. She lives in a three bedroomed house on the border between the city and county in Braunstone Town, Leicestershire. She shares her home with her brother and parents, all of whom are out at work during the day. Children have access to the whole of the downstairs and the bathroom upstairs. There is also a secure rear garden. There is level access to the premises.

The childminder is registered to care for six children under eight years at any one time. There are currently six children on roll, three of whom are within the early years age range. This provision is registered by Ofsted on the Early Years Register and on both the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. The childminder is working toward a National Vocational Qualification level 3. The family has a dog, cat, rabbits and guinea pigs.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is satisfactory. Children are happy and settled in the childminder's care. They enjoy a welcoming and inclusive environment where they have generally independent access to a range of age-appropriate toys and resources. Children's welfare is appropriately supported and they are making generally sound progress in their development. Tentative steps have been taken to begin to monitor and evaluate the quality of the provision. Partnerships with parents and others are generally effective.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- develop further understanding and knowledge of the learning and development requirements
- develop systems to ensure observations are matched to the expectations of the early learning goals and use this information to identify children's individual learning priorities in order to plan and provide experiences to challenge them to progress in their development as much as they can.

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

- obtain information relating to who has legal access and parental responsibility for each child (Safeguarding and promoting children's welfare) 25/06/2009
- ensure checks are effective in identifying and minimising any hazards in the environment (Suitable premises, environment and equipment). 25/06/2009

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder has a sound understanding of health and safety. She has devised and implemented a range of in-depth policies and procedures that include a risk assessment and the appropriate record of this. However, the resulting daily checks of the environment are not fully effective in minimising potential hazards which does not ensure children's safety is fully safeguarded. The childminder has a clear understanding of the signs and symptoms of abuse and what action to take in order to protect children from harm and neglect.

The childminder recognises the importance of working in partnership with parents and others. She works well with parents and professionals from other agencies to identify and work towards meeting children's individual needs. She keeps appropriate records about children in her care in order for her to understand their needs, although she has not yet obtained information relating to who has legal access and parental responsibility for each child which is a requirement. Parents are well-informed about the childminder's service and the activities and care their children receive. There is a range of detailed written policies and procedures, children's individual folders are accessible and children's work is displayed around the setting. Most children have been in the childminder's care since they were very young which contributes to the continuity of their care.

The childminder demonstrates a clear commitment to improving outcomes for children through updating and improving her childcare knowledge and understanding. She is currently undertaking training to obtain a recognised childcare qualification and has recently updated her paediatric first aid certificate. Whilst she has only taken very tentative steps towards developing and establishing systems to monitor and evaluate her service she is aware that her knowledge of the learning and development requirements is limited.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children are settled and play happily in the childminder's care. Their good health is prioritised at all times through the implementation of in-depth policies and procedures. Children learn about the principles of healthy living. For instance, they benefit from healthy, nutritious meals and snacks throughout the day and they make strong progress in their physical development because they have good access to enjoy physical activities including taking part in obstacle courses and using large equipment in the garden. Children are developing an awareness of keeping themselves safe as they learn about key issues such as road safety and using equipment safely but their risk of accidental injury is not fully minimised. Children are supported well to develop good behaviour and self control because the childminder works effectively in partnership with parents and professionals from other agencies.

Children are making satisfactory progress in their learning and development because they are occupied in play which is helping them to become active learners. They take part in a varied range of planned activities that include

attending childcare and local community venues that help to broaden their range of experiences and learning opportunities. They have opportunities to investigate and explore using materials such as sand and water and they take part in craft activities which are planned to take into account their experiences at home. They are developing an interest in growing and living things as they visit local farms and bird parks, grow sunflowers and come into contact with animals in the childminder's home. They use small world resources to play imaginatively and constructive toys to build and design. They develop an interest in time and weather as they complete the calendar each day although opportunities to develop a positive awareness of the diversity of the wider world are limited. Children enjoy looking at books and mark making and they show a developing interest in number, shape and size. They enjoy engaging in conversation with each other, the childminder and visitors. In general they are able to make choices and decisions about their play and to follow their own interest. However, whilst children are making satisfactory progress in their development some play and routine experiences do not challenge or explore all areas of learning and children's individual learning priorities are not yet fully identified or planned for to ensure they make as much progress as they can.

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?	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?	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?	3
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?	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 (Suitable premises, environment and equipment).

25/06/2009

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 specified in the early years section of the report (Suitable premises, environment and equipment).

25/06/2009