

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY222944
Inspection date	02/02/2009
Inspector	Carolyn Gifford
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 2002. She lives with her husband and two adult children at Mexborough in Doncaster. The whole of the ground floor is available for childminding, which includes a lounge, dining room, kitchen, hallway and downstairs toilet. The premises are accessible via a level driveway and one step to the front door. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The family has a small dog and a parrot.

Local schools, play areas and shops are within walking distance.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children under eight years old at any one time. There are currently two children on roll, both of whom are in the early years age group.

The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register, compulsory part of the Childcare Register and voluntary part of the Childcare Register. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The childminder recognises the uniqueness of each child she is minding and offers a fully inclusive childcare service. She has the knowledge and skills to provide effectively for children's individual needs and children are very happy and settled in the childminder's care. She is committed to continuing to improve her skills and expertise to secure continuous improvement for her setting. Required policies and procedures are in evidence and do mostly include all of the relevant information and detail. However, the safeguarding children policy does not include the procedure to follow in the event of an allegation being made against the childminder or a member of her family. The childminder has acted on previous recommendations and action she has taken has a significant impact on the general welfare of the children. For example, the childminder now records times of arrival and departure, has written parental consent for children to have contact with the family pets and has smoke alarms fitted on both levels of the property.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- ensure that the safeguarding children policy includes the procedure to be followed in the event of an allegation being made against the childminder or a member of her family
- continue to develop knowledge of the Early Years Foundation Stage.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder has a very good understanding of her role in promoting children's safety and well-being. All records are well maintained and written policies and procedures underpin important areas of the childminder's practice. They are implemented effectively and shared with parents, which means they are well informed about the childcare service. Children are safeguarded because the childminder has a very good awareness of her role and responsibilities with regard to child protection and knows the procedure to follow in the event of having concerns about children. There are also clear procedures in place for identifying potential hazards and the childminder takes appropriate action to minimise or eliminate any such hazards.

The childminder works very well with parents and other providers of the Early years Foundation Stage (EYFS). She has good systems in place to identify individual children's starting points, which effectively contributes to ensuring that children's needs, likes, dislikes and interests are an integral part of the settling in process for children. The childminder provides interesting and purposeful play and learning experiences and children take part with enthusiasm in activities that are well matched to their individual needs. The childminder shows a clear commitment to the further development of her provision and demonstrates a good capacity for continuous improvement, which is highlighted in her self-evaluation form.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children are cared for in a clean and safe environment where effective measures are taken to protect them from the spread of infection and keep them safe and secure. The childminder encourages children to behave in ways that are safe for themselves and others, which means that children are developing a good knowledge and understanding of dangers and how to keep themselves safe. They enjoy a healthy and well balanced diet and learn about healthy eating via activities and discussions with the childminder. For example, a variety of fresh fruit is offered at snack time and the childminder extends children's knowledge and understanding by talking with them about the taste, texture, shape, colour and size of different fruits.

A varied and purposeful range of activities and resources effectively builds on children's natural curiosity as learners, enabling them to develop confidence and a positive self-esteem. Children are confident in the environment, with each other and with the childminder and show a strong sense of belonging and are treated with equal concern. Effective planning systems ensure that each child has an enjoyable and challenging experience. Thorough and systematic observations are used effectively to inform planning and to identify the next steps in individual children's learning.

There is a good balance of adult led and child initiated activities, which effectively contributes to children making good progress across all areas of learning. The childminder values children as active learners and encourages them to think critically and develop problem skills by using appropriate questioning techniques.

For example, when children play with play dough the childminder asks them to describe how it feels and to talk about the different shapes they make.

The childminder organises the childminding day very well to create stimulating and interesting play and learning opportunities that capture children's imagination and encourages independent choice both indoors and out. For example, when children initiate a role play activity involving shopping, the childminder ensures that children have easy access to appropriate resources. She extends their knowledge and understanding by discussing with them the different types of shops and children readily link their knowledge of everyday experiences to the activity.

Children take part in a range of physical activities and become familiar with the local environment as they enjoy routine outings. Their behaviour is good and the childminder's appropriate use of praise and encouragement contributes to children learning right from wrong in a caring and supportive environment. Children develop social skills as they play together and begin to consider the needs and feelings of others. The childminder values children's attempts and achievements and demonstrates this to children by complementing them and displaying some of their work.

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 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.