

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY248490
Inspection date	23/02/2009
Inspector	Diana Pidgeon
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 in a residential area of Nottingham. The home is close to local shops, parks and schools. All of the ground floor and first floor bathroom are used for childminding. There is also a toilet and washbasin available on the ground floor.

The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and both the voluntary and compulsory parts of the Childcare Register. She may care for a maximum of six children under eight at any one time. She normally works during school term-times only. There are currently nine children on roll, six of whom are in the early years range. All of the children attend on a part-time basis. The childminder has a recognised Early Years qualification. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is good. The childminder's knowledge of children's individual needs ensures that she promotes all aspects of their learning and welfare with success. Children are happy and engage in a wide range of activities that support their learning. The childminder builds secure relationships with parents and communicates with them effectively to ensure all relevant information is exchanged. She is beginning to use self-evaluation to reflect on her practice and identify how she intends to make continuous improvements.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- use the observations and assessments of children's achievements to identify learning priorities and plan relevant experiences for each child.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

All of the required documentation is in place and effectively supports the care of the children. There are written policies and procedures in place that underpin the childminder's practice and contribute towards positive outcomes for children. The home is welcoming and provides children with opportunities to move around easily and to make independent choices within their play. Detailed risk assessments are in place for the home and any outings undertaken with the children. This ensures potential hazards are identified and suitable steps are taken to minimise risks, thereby safeguarding children's welfare. The childminder takes appropriate steps to ensure all adults who come into contact with children are suitable to do so. She has a sound understanding of her responsibility to protect children and is aware of the procedures to follow if concerned about a child.

The childminder works closely with parents to ensure she is aware of children's individual needs and preferences. She keeps a daily diary for parents and makes time for discussions so that they are well informed about children's care and the activities they undertake. Where children attend more than one setting the childminder is establishing links so that children benefit from a sense of continuity within their care and learning. The childminder is committed to ongoing improvement and through her self-evaluation has identified her own priorities. She takes positive steps to keep her knowledge up-to-date through attending training and working with other professionals. As a result, she has a good knowledge of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and uses this to promote positive outcomes for children.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children develop warm, trusting relationships with the childminder. She provides them with lots of cuddles and reassurance so that they feel confident and secure. Toys and resources are organised well so that all children can play happily with activities of their choice. For example, toys such as construction bricks are put out on the floor so that all children can access these independently. Babies have the use of highchairs so that they can sit and draw alongside the older children. This ensures they are all equally valued and included. The childminder dedicates her time to playing and talking with the children so that their learning is promoted. Through her interactions with them she encourages children to persevere with challenging tasks, helps them to think through and solve problems for themselves and makes activities fun. For example, as children play a colour matching game she encourages them to keep looking for an appropriate coloured bobbin when it is not immediately visible and then provides warm praise to reinforce children's sense of achievement as it is found.

Young children develop good independence skills as they help themselves to their own drinks when they are thirsty and begin to wash their hands before eating. The childminder encourages children to respect one another and through attending local groups she provides opportunities for children to mix and play together from an early age. Children show an interest in the local environment and enjoy first hand experiences as they visit the library, park and soft play centre. Their understanding of the wider world is promoted through the use of appropriate resources and planned activities. The childminder is beginning to observe children as they play and to record their progress in all areas of their development. She complements this with an informative photographic record of each child that illustrates what they do and how this contributes to their progress. Although planning is in place and developing, this does not yet fully identify the next steps for individual children or how these will be promoted through the play provided.

The childminder takes positive steps to ensure children are safe and secure at all times. Children develop an awareness of healthy eating because the childminder provides a menu that is well balanced and nutritious. For example, children are keen to eat their snack, which consists of halved grapes and sliced banana. Children move freely around the areas of the home that are used. Babies pull themselves into a standing position against the furniture and have plenty of safe

space in which to crawl or shuffle. The childminder is alert to children's normal routines and provides safe opportunities for children to rest when they are tired. This ensures their individual needs are met.

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.