

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY259952
Inspection date	12/11/2009
Inspector	Katy Elizabeth Wynn
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.

Please see our website for more information about each childcare provider. We publish inspection reports, conditions of registration and details of complaints we receive where we or the provider take action to meet the requirements of registration.

Description of the childminding

The childminder was registered in 2003. She lives with her husband and children, aged 12 years old, eight years old and three years old in the Garforth area of Leeds. The property is located close to shops, parks, schools and public transport links. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is an enclosed garden to the rear of the property. She has a hamster as a pet.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children under eight years old at any one time, no more than two of which may be in the early years age range. She currently has two children on roll in the early years age range. The childminder is registered by Ofsted on the Early Years Register and both the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is good.

The childminder recognises the uniqueness of each child extremely well, thus ensuring their individual needs are met. Children make good progress in their learning and development through the provision of a variety of experiences. The childminder provides a learning environment that promotes diversity, positive behaviour and that encourages children to make independent choices. She maintains well written documentation, including policies, procedures and child assessment records. Systems for evaluating her setting are in place, although the childminder has not devised a system for including the views of parents and children. Improvements made since the last inspection have promoted the good outcomes for children.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- consider ways to seek parents' and children's views in order for them to contribute to the setting's self-evaluation
- continue to use observations and assessments to identify learning priorities and plan relevant and motivating learning experiences for each child.

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder considers children's safety very well. Written risk assessments are in place for the home, garden and outings. These identify potential risks and hazards to children and the steps taken to reduce them. The childminder has undertaken safeguarding training. This has updated her knowledge and

understanding, for example, of potential signs and symptoms and the local procedures. The childminder is well organised with all the relevant documentation in place to support children's health and welfare. Detailed policies and procedures are shared with parents to keep them effectively informed about her childminding practices. Premises are well maintained with good levels of safety measures in place to ensure that children can move and play safely. Resources are sustainable and suitable to support children's learning and development. These are easily accessible, enabling children to initiate their own play and learning in the homely environment.

The premises are well organised and allow separate areas for children to rest, eat and take part in play activities. Daily routines are flexible to follow children's interests and incorporate good opportunities for children to play and learn, both indoors and outdoors. Children's independence is successfully promoted as they choose activities. The childminder has a positive attitude towards further development of her practice, regularly attending courses to update herself, such as food safety courses and she has started a level 3 qualification in child care. She continues to evaluate the activities to help her plan how to move children onto the next step in their learning.

The childminder establishes good relationships with parents, which supports her in meeting children's individual needs. Information is obtained from parents about children's routines and abilities when they start, helping the transition from home to the childminder's setting. Information is regularly exchanged, both verbally and written, such as through the daily diaries and parents are encouraged to contribute comments. This helps everyone work together to support children's learning and development.

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

The childminder demonstrates a good knowledge of the learning and development and welfare requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage framework. She provides a good range of activities and resources to meet children's needs and they are actively engaged and interested throughout the day. Children's learning journals are used effectively by the childminder to record observations and photographs of the children as they play. Observations of children's interests and abilities are regularly used to plan appropriate activities and outings to challenge their learning and development in most areas.

Children enjoy a good balance of indoor, outdoor, quiet and active play to suit their moods, interests or requests. Young children enjoy the close attention from the childminder, often climbing on her knee to look at books. They have easy access to appropriate toys which stimulates their interest and curiosity, for example, the dressing up clothes enables children to act out real life scenarios and care for others, for example, children enjoy dressing up as doctors and nurses. Children use the small world equipment to develop their curiosity as they push the cars fast down the ramps. All these activities help young children develop hand-eye coordination, physical skills and early problem solving.

Children engage in regular outdoor play, enabling them to benefit from fresh air and exercise. They benefit from regular trips to the park. They gain awareness of the wider world as they embark on outings, such as days out and walks in the local community. These visits encourage children's awareness of others, social contact and respect.

Children learn to share and take turns, with appropriate guidance from the childminder. They understand how to keep themselves safe, for example, they know how to evacuate the building if there was a fire. Children have high levels of self esteem and build strong relationships with both the childminder and their peers. Children have a clear sense of belonging at the setting and proudly hang their belongings up on their individual coat pegs. Children's hygiene is positively supported as toys and resources are cleaned on a regular basis. In addition to this, their good health is further promoted through the provision of healthy meals and snacks, such as fresh fruit and vegetables.

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?	2
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement	2

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

How effectively is the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?	2
The effectiveness of leadership and management in embedding ambition and driving improvement	2
The effectiveness with which the setting deploys resources	2
The effectiveness with which the setting promotes equality and diversity	2
The effectiveness of safeguarding	2
The effectiveness of the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement	2
The effectiveness of partnerships	2
The effectiveness of the setting's engagement with parents and carers	2

The quality of the provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage

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Outcomes for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage

Outcomes for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage	2
The extent to which children achieve and enjoy their learning	2
The extent to which children feel safe	2
The extent to which children adopt healthy lifestyles	2
The extent to which children make a positive contribution	2
The extent to which children develop skills for the future	2

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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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