

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY272298
Inspection date	16/01/2009
Inspector	Sarah Measures
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 registered in 2003. She lives with her husband and two children aged five and two years in Kettering, Northamptonshire. The whole of the childminder's house is available for minding and there is a secure garden used for outdoor play. The premises are accessible and there are toilet facilities downstairs. The childminder is registered for overnight care. She may care for one child at any one time on the Early Years Register. She also cares for older children on the voluntary and compulsory parts of the Childcare Register. The childminder either walks or uses her car to transport children to and from local schools. She is a member of the National Childminding Association and a member of the committee for the Northamptonshire Childminding Association. She has links with local schools, nurseries and pre-school groups and runs a childminding support group. The family has a pet dog that is kept in the garden.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The childminder provides appropriately for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage. She has a secure understanding of the principles of the Early Years Foundation Stage and children are valued as individuals within the setting. Not all aspects of the provision promote children's health and safety effectively. The childminder has started to observe the children in order to plan for their individual learning and development. The provision for improvement is secure because the childminder has a positive attitude towards improvement and actively seeks advice, support and training from the local authority.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- develop further the systems of observation and assessment in order to show how children make clear progress towards the early learning goals across the development areas.

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

- develop a system of risk assessment that identifies all hazards to children and review it regularly (Suitable premises, environment and equipment) (also applies to the compulsory/voluntary parts of the Childcare Register) 30/01/2009
- make sure that Ofsted is informed of any significant event that may affect the suitability of the early years provider (Suitability of adults) (also applies to the compulsory/voluntary parts of the Childcare Register) 16/01/2009

The leadership and management of the early years provision

Suitable policies and procedures promote children's learning and development. Children are engaged in a balanced range of activities that they enjoy in and out of the home. The childminder works closely with parents and other carers in order to help her understand and meet children's individual needs. The childminder carefully reflects upon her practice across all aspects of the provision, but does not identify all key areas for development.

Policies and procedures generally promote the care of the children. However, risk assessments do not effectively promote children's safety and the childminder has not informed Ofsted of significant events that may affect the care of the children. Children are protected because the childminder is secure in her understanding of the possible indicators of child abuse and she keeps relevant referral information and policies available to follow if necessary. Parents are provided with information as to how to make a complaint to Ofsted in order to ensure a safe and transparent service for parents and children. Secure systems are in place to ensure children are collected by appropriately persons.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Overall, the provision is organised to meet children's welfare and developmental needs. Children are settled and at home within the setting. Secure relationships exist between the childminder and minded children. Good effort is made to seek parents' views and to ensure they are kept informed of children's routines and activities through ongoing friendly verbal communications. A range of policy information is easily available to parents in order to encourage good continuity of children's care.

Children take part in various, fun activities that promote all development areas. For example, they enjoy free play as they choose from suitable and safe toys and activities within the home. They also enjoy musical and creative activities within the home and as they visit various childminding and pre-school groups within the area. This also gives them important opportunities to socialise with others. The childminder also plans outings for children to farm parks and zoos in order to vary their enjoyment and their learning experiences. She has started to build up observations on the children that sometimes identify the next steps in children's learning. However, observations are not kept up to date and do not clearly show children's progress towards the early learning goals in all areas.

The childminder involves children in purposeful discussions in order to help them to be responsible and consider others. Children are well nourished because the childminder provides home cooked foods from fresh ingredients and ensures children are always able to make healthy choices for snacks and meals. Children benefit from good opportunities for outdoor play as they regularly visit the large park opposite the childminder's home. Written risk assessments are carried out across the provision, however they do not identify all hazards to children within the home and they are not regularly reviewed which does not promote children's

safety at all times. Ofsted has not been informed of accidents that have resulted in medical attention, which potentially compromises children's health and safety.

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?	3
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

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:

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 part of the Childcare Register section of the report (Suitability and Safety of Premises and Equipment) 30/01/2009

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 part of the Childcare Register section of the report (Suitability and Safety of Premises and Equipment). 30/01/2009

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.