

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY296232
Inspection date	21/10/2008
Inspector	Anne Bennett
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 2005 and lives in a semi detached property in Ossett. The kitchen, lounge, dining area, playroom, toilet and upstairs bathroom are used for childminding. There is a garden to the rear of the property for outdoor play. The premises are accessed via a ramp to the front of the property. The family has three cats.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children under eight years and currently minds three children in the early years age group and three in the later years age group. Care is offered between the hours of 08.00 until 17.30 Monday to Friday.

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

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The childminder has a sound knowledge of the children in her care and has developed close, settled relationships, providing reassurance and a secure environment. Parents receive regular information about the setting, their child's care, daily routine and some aspects of their achievements and progress. Planning and assessment processes are developing and children make satisfactory progress in learning and development. Children's individual needs are identified and supported, however, observation and assessment systems do not clearly identify next steps to ensure challenge, progression and continuity beyond the setting. The childminder has begun to reflect on her practice and has completed the Ofsted self-evaluation form.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- improve assessment processes and development records to clearly identify next steps for all children as they progress towards the early learning goals
- encourage parents/carers and children to contribute their ideas and opinions of the setting to support the monitoring and evaluation process
- further develop information sharing systems to keep parents/carers fully informed of their child's progress and achievements and to ensure continuity for extending learning in the home
- maintain an up to date daily record of children's attendance

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

- carry out and review written risk assessments for each specific type of outing

30/11/2008

The leadership and management of the early years provision

Clear policies and procedures are shared with parents and have recently been updated in line with the introduction of the Early Years Foundation Stage framework. The childminder provides a warm and welcoming environment and has established effective working relationships with parents. A regular two way flow of information is maintained through daily communication, ensuring that children's individual needs are recognised and met. Parents contribute to younger children's record books, however, details of all children's achievements and progress are not communicated fully to parents in order to involve and support them in their child's development and learning.

The premises are risk assessed effectively and checked on a daily basis to ensure that they remain safe, and hazards to children are minimised. Most records are in place and used effectively to promote children's welfare and development with the exception of risk assessments for specific types of outings. The childminder has a sound understanding of her responsibilities with regards to child protection and parents are kept up to date with safeguarding issues, reassuring them that their child is safe.

The childminder is receptive to external support and motivated to further develop her skills and knowledge in order to improve practice. Positive relationships with parents are evident in written references, however, the views and opinions of parents and children are not currently sought and acted upon in order to improve practice as part of the monitoring and evaluation process. All recommendations raised at the last inspection have been effectively addressed and the Ofsted self-evaluation form is used as a basis for ongoing internal review.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Warm and caring relationships are evident, as the children sit with the childminder and talk about the animals they can see in the jigsaw that they are working on together. A range of resources including books, toys, games, craft materials and dressing up clothes are available, enabling children to make choices independently and with support when required. Children are encouraged to count, make connections and learn how to take turns as they play dominoes. The childminder extends children's understanding of the rules by making appropriate interventions and showing genuine interest and encouragement.

Children enthusiastically dance to music encouraged by the childminder, participating eagerly and with enjoyment. They make satisfactory progress in all areas of learning supported by consistent positive interactions enabling them to feel secure. The childminder responds to children's observed interest in animals and explores this further as they plan a trip to the pet shop together and learn about how to care for animals safely and effectively.

Systems for planning and recording progress and achievement in relation to the early learning goals are in the initial stages of development and have been identified by the childminder as a priority for improvement. Outings to places of interests and public spaces, such as parks and shops are regularly visited to extend and support the learning environment.

The setting is clean, safe and the layout on one level lends itself well to individual and group activities. Positive relationships and good behaviour are encouraged effectively as children play games together and share toys. Health and well-being is promoted through discussion and exploration of the different fruit and vegetables offered during meal times and for snacks. Children extend their knowledge and understanding further by visiting the supermarket to look at the range of healthy food choices available.

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?	3
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: Met

The provider confirms that the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register are: Met

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.