

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY305930
Inspection date	29/06/2009
Inspector	Paula Fretwell
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 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).

Children only attend this setting before and/or after the school day and/or during the school holidays. The judgements in this report reflect the quality of early years provision offered to children during those periods.

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 has been registered since 2005. She lives with her family in East Ardsley. She uses the whole of the ground floor for childminding and there is a rear garden for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children under eight years at any one time, of whom no more than three may be in the early years age range. She is currently minding two children, one of whom is in the early years age group. She also offers care to children aged over five years to 11 years. This provision is registered by Ofsted on the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register.

The childminder takes and collects children to and from local schools.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is good. The childminder provides a friendly, welcoming environment, in which children's welfare, learning and development needs are promoted well. Children make good progress towards the early learning goals in all areas. The childminder uses children's interests to support their development and learning and she facilitates their choice of play. Good systems are in place to promote children's safety and effective partnerships with parents enables the childminder to meet the needs of their children. The childminder is aware of changes to legislation and the need to evaluate her provision to identify key strengths and areas for development. The recommendations from the last inspection have been addressed.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- further develop ways to evaluate the quality of the provision to identify strengths and areas to improve
- ensure policies and procedures reflect current legislation.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

All necessary documentation is in place and securely filed. Written policies and procedures support the childminder's practice, although these do not all fully reflect recent changes to legislation. The childminder understands the need to evaluate her own practice and she informally seeks feedback from parents to this effect, although there are no formal self-evaluation systems yet in place.

The childminder has a secure understanding of her role and responsibilities in keeping children safe and is aware of the safeguarding procedures to follow should

she have any concerns. Her responsibility to safeguard children is clearly discussed with all parents. The childminder has good relationships with parents and they work together to support the needs of their children.

Parents are kept fully informed about what their children are doing through daily conversation and written observations. The childminder records children's activities and progress, evidenced with lovely photograph examples of them at play and parents contribute well to these records.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children are completely happy and settled in the childminder's care and there are warm and trusting relationships to foster their development. The childminder has a calm and patient approach and she has a very good knowledge of the individual needs of the children in her care. The childminder fully understands how children learn through play and she uses fun and everyday opportunities to cover all areas of learning. Children confidently initiate activities and make decisions regarding their play as they choose their favourite activities, such as play dough. They make their needs clearly known to the childminder and she responds well to meet them. Children's independence is encouraged and they help to set up activities, enjoying responsibility for helping.

Children's language skills are developing very well as they engage in plenty of chatter with the childminder during play. She asks them questions, such as how many candles they are putting on their play dough cake and she encourages them to count and recognise shapes in everyday ways. Children enjoy painting and creative activities and they proudly show off their art work. The childminder uses creative opportunities to help children to recognise colours and they chat about the colours in their seaside paintings. Children benefit from a wide range of local outings to help them develop social skills with others. For example, they attend local groups, places of interest and activity sessions relevant to their needs and interests.

Children's good health is promoted well within the routine. Plenty of fresh air during daily outdoor play supports children's healthy life-style and the childminder regularly walks to local places as well as providing opportunities to play in the garden and grow plants. Children enjoy healthy snacks, such as raspberries and strawberries and the childminder knows their favourite foods. Drinks are always available so children do not become thirsty.

Children's safety is well promoted and they are learning how to keep themselves safe. For example, they regularly practise fire evacuation and the childminder helps them to understand why. On outings to busy places, children wear fluorescent jackets so they can be easily seen. Children are only collected by those authorised to do so and the childminder maintains their security by keeping doors locked. Children understand good behaviour through simple rules which help them learn safe boundaries. Good manners are encouraged and the childminder sets a good example for children to follow.

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.	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?	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

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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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