

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY306158
Inspection date	09/12/2008
Inspector	Christine Tipple
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 has been registered since 2005. She lives with her husband and two children aged six and 11 years old in Eastfield near to the town of Scarborough. The childminder is within walking distance of all local community services including three primary schools. Children use the ground floor and the bathroom on the first floor. There is an enclosed rear garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered for a maximum of five children under eight years, of whom three are on the Early Years Register. She currently has five children on roll, of whom four are in the early years age range. The childminder is also registered on the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register and provides before and after school and holiday care.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Children's individual needs are well supported in an inclusive environment. This positive approach enables them to make good progress in the six areas of learning. The children's safety and well-being are managed very effectively by the childminder on a day to day basis. The childminder has taken steps to evaluate her practice to enable her to identify areas to further develop.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- develop the information on each child's next steps to ensure these link to the area of learning and inform future planning
- extend details in relation to the risk assessment which identify when checks have been completed.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder has developed a range of informed policies and procedures which are shared with parents. These provide a positive approach to ensuring children's safety and welfare is well managed. Children's details and relevant contracts of agreement with parents are in place and up to date. Time is given to parents and their children to settle in and for the childminder to take account of their individual needs, routines and interests. The childminder has daily diaries in which she records information on the children's day and these are shared with parents. This offers them the opportunity to add their own comments, such as what they have done over the weekend. Daily verbal exchanges with parents provide other good opportunities to share information. The childminder has developed links with the local school and nursery teacher and other provisions in the community.

The childminder has completed risk assessments for indoors and all outings.

However, the regular checks carried out by the childminder are not fully recorded. Information on safeguarding children in her care is shared with parents through the childminder's policy and procedures, along with relevant contact details for other agencies. The childminder has completed the recommendations from the previous inspection. She continues to review her practice and identify areas to improve on, such as accessing further training.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children are relaxed and settled and they show a secure and caring relationship with the childminder. They have access to a range of good quality resources and equipment which reflect the ages and developmental needs of the children attending. This enables the children to effectively progress in all six areas of learning. Children can select additional resources and initiate their own activities as the childminder promotes a child-led approach. The childminder carries out regular observations on each child and these are recorded and identify children's next steps. However, these are not yet clearly linked to the area of learning to ensure this is reflected in future planning for each child. The children have their own learning journey files which have photographs and details of what the children have done and these are well presented and shared with parents.

The childminder knows the children well and has taken time to assess their needs and to develop their interests, to extend and develop their learning through their play. Interaction with the children promotes language skills and enables children to be confident in expressing themselves. They use books and visit the local library. They have opportunities to use a range of materials, paints and tools to make marks and be creative, such as making a collage of a round snowman. The children enjoy being outside in the fresh air and visit the local area to collect conkers or visit the beach. This provides children with opportunities to explore and investigate their environment as well as having regular exercise. Children attend a music and movement session which they thoroughly enjoy. They have resources that develop their imaginative skills through small world and role play, which further enables them to express themselves and develop their own ideas. The daily activities and routines provide a rich source of problem-solving and numeracy opportunities, such as to recognise numbers around them and to count how many birds in the tree. Children regularly bake and weigh all the ingredients.

Children enjoy healthy snacks on a daily basis and the childminder discusses with them what foods are good for you. Snacks consist of a variety of fruit and other options, and parents provide their children's packed lunches. Physical play and opportunities to access tools and equipment fully promote children's skills. This includes appropriate use of space for all the children to move around and for the youngest children to crawl and pull themselves up confidently. Safety and children's welfare are managed very well by the childminder, who takes time to discuss safety issues with the children. The children are happy and settled, which is reflected in their behaviour. There is a positive emphasis on children sharing, taking turns and being kind. A sticker reward system supports children who are developing their sharing skills.

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?	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

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.