

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY317045
Inspection date	08/04/2009
Inspector	Karen Ann Byfleet
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 was registered in 2005. She lives with her husband and two children aged six and ten years in the town of Mansfield which is situated in Nottinghamshire. The whole of the ground floor of the childminders house is used and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary part of the Childcare Register. She is registered to provide care for five children under eight years. There are currently seven children on roll and of these three are in the early years age range.

The childminder is working towards a level three childcare qualification, is a member of the National Childminding Association and receives support from the local authority.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the provision is good. The childminder provides a very stimulating and extensive range of activities and experiences for all children who attend. The observation and assessment system which is in place is excellent and covers all the six areas of learning very well and children are making excellent progress in their learning and development. Children's progress is shared with parents and other Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) providers where children attend. An extensive range of well-written policies and procedures have been implemented and shared with parents, with whom positive relationships are formed. The childminder has started to evaluate her provision but this is still in the early stages of development. A very safe and welcoming environment is created to ensure all children are happy and enjoy their time in the setting.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- continue to develop further the monitoring and evaluation system of the provision.

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

- obtain written permission for seeking any necessary emergency medical advice or treatment for all children (Safeguarding and promoting children's welfare).

17/04/2009

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder provides very effectively for the children in her care. Self-evaluation has started to be monitored by the childminder, although this is still in the early stages of development. However, she has clear a vision for what she wants to achieve. She has developed excellent partnerships with all parents and other providers delivering the EYFS, ensuring information which is shared is consistent in helping children make excellent progress in their learning and development. Visits, which are individual to each child and their parents, prior to the commencement of the placement ensure each child integrates at their own unique pace and inclusion is successfully promoted.

Detailed written risk assessments are comprehensive and any potential hazards are thoroughly checked, daily, weekly or monthly as required. A risk assessment for each outing ensures children's safety is given the utmost priority. The indoor environment is highly effective in being child-friendly as they are free to move around between the dedicated playroom, the kitchen and the outdoor rear garden which is safely enclosed. Resources are presented at low level which ensures children can be independent and freely access them which leads to them using their own initiative to instigate their play. Positive steps are taken to prevent the spread of infection. The children know and follow hand washing routines and they have their own individual hand towels. The childminder ensures all areas of the home are clean and well maintained. Most required documents for the well-being of all children are in place. However, the childminder has not obtained written permission from all parents for her to seek any necessary emergency medical advice or treatment that may be required which compromises children's welfare.

The childminder is currently working towards a level three qualification in early years practice and she is fully committed to further training, which all contribute to her increasing her knowledge in order to benefit the children in her care. For example, a variety of workshops linked to the EYFS ensures she has the skills to maintain the quality of education and that she continues to promote the good health of the children with up-to-date training in first aid. This contributes to the quality of care she provides.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The childminder fully supports all children to develop to their full potential. They learn through a very good variety of activities both indoors and in the rear garden which is safely enclosed. Activities also include outings such as going to the park, shops and places of interest such as the museum and farm parks. The childminder plans and provides exciting and challenging activities such as crafts, painting or outings and children's abilities are fully extended through detailed observation and assessments. This ensures that children achieve extremely well in relation to all areas of learning, as they are covered on a regular basis. The childminder listens and responds positively to what the children have particular interests in and resources presented are rich in variety and cater for all ages of children attending.

Children develop a positive awareness of themselves and their needs through the excellent support of the childminder. They make individual decisions about their play and are encouraged to make their own sandwiches at lunch time. For example, the childminder provides plates of meat such as chicken and ham and bowls of salad for the children to choose from. They are provided with fresh fruit such as strawberries, grapes and bananas and as a result they are developing a very good awareness of healthy eating. This is extended through topics on healthy foods as the children cut out foods from magazines and make collage pictures. Language is well developed as the childminder constantly talks to the children and extends their learning and knowledge and they share information. They are fully supported to develop problem-solving and other mathematical skills. For example, the childminder sits with the children when they are all participating in doing a floor puzzle of letters and numbers and she asks age appropriate questions to extend children's learning. Such as asking a two year old to point to the numbers two, four, five and then asking a four year old to hold up eight fingers.

Children use tools with dexterity as they mark-make with pencils, paint brushes and glue. For example, when engaging in an Easter craft activity, painting chicks, gluing feathers and painting eggs. The children behave in ways that are safe for themselves and others as when outdoors playing with the hoops they are aware of others around them and avoid collisions. Children's awareness of the wider world is positively enhanced as the childminder has a wealth of resources which represent positive images and diversity such as, dolls, dressing up clothes, books and posters around the home. The children also enjoy various world celebrations which the childminder links to pre-school and school activities.

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?	1
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?	2
How well does the setting work in partnership with parents and others?	1
How well are children safeguarded?	1

Quality and standards

How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?	1
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?	1
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	1
How well are children helped develop skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being?	1

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
--	-----