

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY347263
Inspection date	01/04/2011
Inspector	K.A. Bryan
Type of setting	Childminder

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, work-based learning and skills training, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for looked after children, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 1231, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may copy all or parts of this document for non-commercial educational purposes, as long as you give details of the source and date of publication and do not alter the information in any way.

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.ofsted.gov.uk

© Crown copyright 2011

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).

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.

Please see our website for more information about each childcare provider. We publish inspection reports, conditions of registration and details of complaints we receive where we or the provider take action to meet the requirements of registration.

Description of the childminding

The childminder was registered in 2007. She lives with her partner and two children aged 10 and one year on the outskirts of a large village near the market town of Hinckley in Leicestershire. The whole ground floor and the rear bedroom and bathroom on the first floor of the childminder's house are used for childcare purposes. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time, of whom three may be in the early years age group. There are currently eight children on roll, of whom three are in the early years age range. The childminder also offers care to children aged over five years. She is registered on the Early Years Register and on both the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register.

The childminder regularly attends carer and toddler groups.

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is good.

Children are happy and content at the home because the childminder has a good awareness of providing activities which interest them. Good working relationships are in place with parents and others involved with the children which means she can respond quickly to their individual needs. Generally, all children make good progress in their learning and development and make choices from a good range of resources. All required policies and procedures are in place and the childminder uses self-evaluation well to improve her service to children. All recommendations made at the last inspection have been implemented.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- strengthen the links between children's starting points and the six areas of learning to effectively monitor their progress
- further improve systems for observations so that all areas of learning are covered equally.

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder is clear about her responsibility to safeguard children and a policy is in place which is shared with parents. Clear procedures are in place to report any concerns to the appropriate authorities and the childminder has attended training in this area.

A good range of measures are in place to keep children safe and the childminder ensures she is always in the garden and kitchen with them. She helps children to understand about maintaining their own safety well as she explains about hazards in the home. She also ensures they know how to keep safe on walks as they talk about road safety and wear high visibility jackets with her contact details on. This further enhances safety measures in place. A detailed risk assessment underpins her practice and this includes daily equipment checks to ensure resources are safe for children's use.

Parents receive a good range of information from the childminder which includes copies of the policies and procedures so they understand how their children will be cared for. The childminder also ensures she is available at all times to talk to parents and a contact book is completed. The childminder ensures parents have regular access to their children's 'Learning Journeys' and can contribute to this so they are involved in their learning. Systems to work with other practitioners who deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage to children are in place so children's needs are always met.

The childminder makes good use of her home to provide children with the freedom to explore their surroundings. They happily move around the ground floor and the outside as they play with a good range of resources. Children can also choose resources from a book of pictures which promotes their confidence well.

The childminder has undertaken a range of training and also has a Level 2 childcare qualification; this demonstrates her good commitment to developing her service to children. The childminder has a good understanding of how to use self-evaluation to identify areas for development and how to improve her service to children.

The quality and standards of the early years provision and outcomes for children

The childminder has a good understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage. This ensures she can provide a balanced range of activities whilst also letting the children follow their own interests. For example, a child was very interested in ladybirds so the childminder provided a magnifying glass and trowel so the garden could be investigated. Each child has a 'Learning Journey' which contains photos and observations of children enjoying a wide range of activities. However, starting points are not linked to the six areas of learning and observations are not frequent enough in all areas of learning. This means children's progress may not be as effective as possible.

The childminder is beginning to make children aware of the natural world as they grow flowers and carrots; they also learn to care for living things as they look after a hamster. Children recycle household items, such as, cereal packets, and construct robots and ships which helps to develop their imagination and problem solving skills effectively. Children enjoy looking at books and select their favourites for the childminder to read to them. The childminder uses these opportunities well to encourage children to think about what they are seeing. For example, as a topic

was colours the children were asked questions about these. This was also linked to making choices of coloured plates at snack time which helps to embed children's learning experiences.

The childminder promotes children's learning well as she skilfully links activities to promote their awareness. For example, the childminder is a partner in a company which is based around promoting healthy eating and making sure children have good opportunities to exercise. In practice this means children learn what foods are healthy, listen to stories which include healthy ideas and enjoy dancing and singing to songs which have been devised to support this. The children enjoy being associated with this group and eagerly ask for music to dance to. They also happily make lots of noise as they bang drums and use rattles to make music, this promotes their creative development effectively.

Children enjoy mark making and their work is displayed in the kitchen which helps to promote their self-esteem well. Warm relations are in place between the childminder and the children and lots of talking and listening make children feel valued.

Children behave well and happily play alongside each other. They respond well as the childminder reminds them to share and be kind and they receive lots of praise for this. This promotes their self-esteem well. Good use is made of simple rules, such as, manners, so children can understand what is expected of them.

Children's awareness of good hygiene is well promoted because they are in routines, such as, hand washing before meals. The childminder makes this fun as she sings a song to them which encourages their washing actions. Children have drinks and snacks, which include a variety of fruits, and meals are home cooked and nutritious. The childminder also talks to them about eating healthily during activities, such as, baking, so children gain a good understanding of healthy options.

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

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

How well does the setting meet the needs of the children in the Early Years Foundation Stage?	2
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement	2

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the Early Years Foundation Stage	2
The effectiveness of leadership and management in embedding ambition and driving improvement	2
The effectiveness with which the setting deploys resources	2
The effectiveness with which the setting promotes equality and diversity	2
The effectiveness of safeguarding	2
The effectiveness of the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement	2
The effectiveness of partnerships	2
The effectiveness of the setting's engagement with parents and carers	2

The quality of the provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage

The quality of the provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage	2
--	---

Outcomes for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage

Outcomes for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage	2
The extent to which children achieve and enjoy their learning	2
The extent to which children feel safe	2
The extent to which children adopt healthy lifestyles	2
The extent to which children make a positive contribution	2
The extent to which children develop skills for the future	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
---	-----

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