

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY370272
Inspection date	13/10/2008
Inspector	Jane Elizabeth O'Callaghan
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 2008. She lives with her husband and two children aged eight and five years on the outskirts of Leeds. The whole of the ground floor of the childminders house, upstairs bathroom and front bedroom for sleeping children are used for childminding and there is an enclosed garden for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time. She currently has eight children on roll. The childminder is registered on the Early Years register and also makes provision for children older than the early years age group which is registered on the voluntary and compulsory parts of the Childcare Register.

The childminder collects and takes children to local schools, visits parks and places of interest. She has two cats as family pets.

The childminder is a member of the local childminding group and the National Childminding Association.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The childminder provides a warm, caring and welcoming environment for children and their families. The children's individual needs are recognised and valued and children's starting points are acknowledged. The childminder fosters good close working relationships with parents and other agencies, which are used to promote good quality care and education. She provides a very safe environment for the children and acknowledges a healthy lifestyle in most areas. The childminder has effective systems in place for monitoring and evaluating her practice and identifies key strengths and the areas of further improvement.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- ensure all animal food and litter tray are out of reach of children
- further develop resources and activities with which to promote children's awareness of diversity
- continue to develop systems to help identify children's next steps in learning.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder's home is well organised to allow children independent access to a good range of toys and equipment. All documentation, including well written policies and procedures are in place. For example, policies on safeguarding children, complaints, health and safety, fire evacuation, emergency treatment and

risk assessments. All policies and procedures are readily available for parents and visitors. She ensures children's safety, both within the setting and when on outings, through very thorough risk assessments which are also recorded, and a visitors book. The childminder demonstrated good awareness of safeguarding children procedures. She has a well written policy, contact numbers available and is aware of signs and symptoms. All records are stored securely, confidentiality is well protected and all are easily accessible if required.

She has started to complete a hard copy of the self-evaluation form and is aware of the areas of improvement she requires. Training has been attended to ensure a safe environment for children in her care. For example, an appropriate First aid course, Early Years Foundation Stage course and a food hygiene course and she has addressed her training needs.

Parents receive a prospectus with lots of informative information; they have access to the children's profiles and the planning is displayed. However, the childminder does not record the child's next steps of learning in the profiles. The childminder has very good relationships with parents and also close links with other agencies. For example, local schools and other local childminders. She has a very informative parent notice board, complaint procedure and ensures she is always available to talk to parents.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children are extremely settled and happy in the care of the childminder. She has a caring approach and offers children a safe and well equipped environment. Children are encouraged to practice a healthy lifestyle, through well balanced snacks, cleaning of their teeth, disposable paper towels and having their own wash bags available. However, the litter tray and pet food is accessible to children. The childminder teaches the children safety through regular practicing of fire drills and road safety when out in the environment. For example, children hold hands when crossing roads and talk to other children on how to stay safe.

The children have access to a good variety of toys and activities that covers all ages and stages of development. The childminder does observations on all the children and records their area of development in line with her good knowledge of the Early Years Foundation Stage.

The children learn about the wider world and local community, through visits to places of interest, farms, carer groups and through celebration of festivals from around the world. However, children have a limited selection of resources to enable them to enhance this area.

The childminder spends a lot of time interacting with the children, teaching them to play together, to share and take turns. For example, the childminder encouraged the children to count, to recognise shapes and to read books together. The childminder encourages children to be creative and adapts activities for children of all ages. For example, all children paint and do lots of creative work, which are displayed for everyone to see. She also evidences lots of different activities through the taking of photographs and putting them in a scrap book for the children and parents to see.

Annex A: record of inspection judgements

The key inspection judgements and what they mean

Outstanding: this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality

Good: this aspect of the provision is strong

Satisfactory: this aspect of the provision is sound

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?	Good
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	Good
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	Good

Leadership and management

How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?	Good
How effective is the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement?	Good
How well does the setting work in partnership with parents and others?	Good
How well are children safeguarded?	Good

Quality and standards

How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?	Good
How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?	Good
How well are children helped to stay safe?	Good
How well are children helped to be healthy?	Good
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	Good
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	Good
How well are children helped develop skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being?	Good

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 registration.

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.