

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY366464
Inspection date	08/10/2008
Inspector	Gill Thornton
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 lives with her husband and two children aged 11 and 10 in Ipswich. The whole of the ground floor of the property and the upstairs bathroom is used for childminding. Children generally use the downstairs toilet. Access to the front door is via a single step. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and she is currently minding two children in the early years age group both on a part-time basis. The childminder also cares for children older than the early years age group. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association. The family has a pet rabbit.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The childminder provides effectively for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). She provides a safe and welcoming environment and follows effective procedures to promote children's safety and welfare at all times. The setting is well organised to enable all children to participate in activities which interest and stimulate them. The childminder discusses children's individual needs with parents and works closely with them to ensure all children are included and their individual needs are met. The childminder has a positive attitude to improvement and is developing her system of self-evaluating her practice to identify strengths and areas for development.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- develop the use of observation and assessment to identify children's next steps in learning
- develop partnership working to provide opportunities for parents to share in their children's learning and consider ways of liaising with other providers delivering the EYFS to ensure progression and continuity of care.

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

- ensure a current first aid certificate is maintained. 28/10/2008

The leadership and management of the early years provision

Children's well-being is promoted by the informative set of policies and procedures which guide the childminder's practice and helps parents understand the care their children receive, thus developing secure working relationships. All the required documentation and consents are in place to support the care and welfare of the

children attending. The childminder works closely with parents to promote children's health and development, although she has not yet implemented a system of fully involving parents in their children's learning and progress. She is flexible to fit in with the needs of working parents and develops friendly relationships to ensure children are cared for according to their parents' wishes.

Children are protected because the childminder understands her role in safeguarding children. She is confident to put procedures into practice if necessary and has previously attended relevant training. The childminder effectively organises her home to ensure the premises are very safe and secure. For example, CCTV and an alarm system on the front and back doors helps ensure that children are unable to leave unsupervised and prevents unauthorised access. The childminder carries out effective risk assessments to identify possible hazards and she is diligent in ensuring appropriate action is taken to keep children safe.

The childminder reviews her practice to identify areas for improvement in order to take appropriate action to improve outcomes for children. An example is the re-organisation of storage facilities to provide children with further opportunities to self-select toys and resources and initiate their own play. The childminder has yet to establish a system of liaising with other settings delivering the EYFS attended by children in her care to ensure activities complement each other and promote progression and continuity of care. She has previously attended the required training to support her registration. However, her first aid certificate expired in March and she has only recently been able to secure a place on an appropriate course to ensure she has up to date knowledge of the action to take in the event of a medical emergency.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The childminder effectively promotes children's welfare, learning and development. Children have good opportunities to enjoy physical play in the large child-friendly garden and they enjoy nutritious, freshly prepared home cooked meals. The childminder works closely with parents to encourage children to eat fresh vegetables and she uses sensitive strategies to encourage them to try healthy alternatives in their diet. Children freely access drinking water via a water cooler in the kitchen to ensure they do not become dehydrated. Children are learning to keep themselves safe and healthy through explanations and sensitive reminders from the childminder.

Children are happy and well-settled in the childminder's care. They share warm, friendly relationships with the childminder and their peers which helps develop their confidence and self-esteem. Children play together well, negotiating and sharing ideas with confidence, for example, while making models out of construction kits. The childminder encourages respect and understanding through everyday routines to ensure all children are included and valued, such as while playing a spontaneous game of 'hide and seek'. The environment is stimulating and well-organised so that children can play undisturbed with their chosen activity so developing their perseverance and concentration. The childminder clearly knows the individual children well and she has started to make observations of their play, however, these

have yet to be fully developed to identify children's next steps in learning to provide further challenge and move them on in their learning.

Children respond well to the childminder's clear expectations of acceptable behaviour. Children in her care are polite and helpful and thus are good role models for each other. The childminder makes good use of praise and encouragement and values children's ideas to promote their self-esteem. They have access to an interesting range of art and craft resources so that they can explore their own ideas and creativity.

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?	Satisfactory
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?	Satisfactory
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?	Satisfactory
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.