

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY356459
Inspection date	22/09/2008
Inspector	Ros Church
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 young son in Grantham, Lincolnshire. The whole of the house is used for childminding, access to the premises is on the ground floor level at the front of the house, toilet facilities are available on both floors. There is an enclosed garden available for outside play. The home is within walking distance of parks, schools and shops.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children under the age of eight at any one time. She is registered on the Early Years Register, the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. The childminder currently cares for two children in the Early Years Foundation Stage.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The childminder's practice ensures children's welfare and development is satisfactorily promoted. Children are happy and secure within the setting. They are occupied with a range of toys and activities, informal observations and assessments are in place, however, these are not effective in ensuring children's full learning potential is achieved. There is a close working relationship with the parents, ensuring there is consistency in meeting children's individual needs and development. The childminder is in the early stages of monitoring and assessing the service she provides where she identifies some areas for improvement. Most records are in place to support children's care and safeguard their welfare.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- obtain written parental permission for children to take part in outings
- ensure a regular fire evacuation drill is carried out
- use observations and assessments to identify learning priorities and plan relevant and motivating learning experiences for each child.

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

- take all reasonable steps to ensure that hazards to children outdoors are kept to a minimum and conduct risk assessments for the home and all outings and review them regularly 06/10/2008
- obtain written parental permission to the seeking of any necessary emergency medical advice or treatment. 06/10/2008

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder organises her home to ensure that children have some opportunities to choose their play and be independent. She ensures daily routines take account of children's individual needs, providing activities within the home and opportunities to develop their knowledge of the wider community.

Most of the required documentation is in place to promote children's safety and welfare. However, written parental permission for the seeking of any necessary emergency medical advice or treatment has not been obtained to ensure children's individual needs are met in an emergency. The childminder supervises children within her care and has made her home safe for children. However, she does not keep a record of risk assessments to ensure hazards are identified and risks are minimised to ensure children's safety such as those within the garden which include an exposed cable which children could trip over, a holly bush and low gate. Appropriate fire detection and control equipment are in place; however, a fire evacuation procedure has not been practised. Children are protected as the childminder has a secure understanding of the procedures for safeguarding children; she knows what to do in the event of any concerns.

The childminder is committed to ensuring her service is inclusive for all families and fully supports children who are learning English as an additional language. Children's individual needs and care are met as the childminder discusses these with the parents as children settle in and on a daily basis, the childminder keeps a record of basic information. However, written parental permission has not been obtained for outings to ensure parents are in full agreement to all activities.

This is the childminder's first inspection since registration; she is beginning to understand what is required for self-evaluation and the need for continuous improvement. She has attended the required courses which include first aid and introduction into childminding practice; she has booked onto additional courses which will help develop the care and education she provides.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The childminder provides a variety of toys and activities which generally meet children's developmental needs. These are set out within the play area encouraging children to make some choices and learn to be independent. A young child explores the different construction shapes and learns to fix the pieces together. The childminder interacts well with the children, she encourages their learning through praise and giving help as they require. She promotes their listening, language and communication skills as she talks to them during play. Children enjoy sharing close times with the childminder such as when looking at books or listening to stories. For example, the childminder sits with a young child and they look through a book together about animals, the child enjoys turning the pages and pointing to and naming the familiar animals and pictures within the book, the childminder uses this opportunity to teach the child new words. The childminder observes children to find out their interests and what they can do. However, observations are not used effectively to identify learning priorities or to plan relevant and motivating learning experiences for each child.

Children learn about the local community through a suitable range of activities planned outside the home, this includes visits to local shops, café and toddler groups where children have opportunities to join in with activities and learn to socialize with others. Outings also include visits to the local park where children use a range of fixed play equipment or join in with ball and running games, this enables them to practise physical skills. During outings the childminder ensures children's safety by supervising the children in her care, she uses safety equipment such as reins for young children who are walking and teaches children about safety such as how to cross roads.

Children's health and well-being are promoted as the childminder follows appropriate procedures to ensure children stay healthy. For example, the childminder ensures children's dietary requirements and routines are met, healthy snacks which include fruit are offered and children are provided with drinks as they require.

Children learn to play cooperatively together to share and take turns during play. Their self-esteem and confidence is encouraged as the childminder fosters children's good behaviour and achievements by using praise and encouragement. She is calm in her approach and takes account of children's understanding and maturity when managing behaviour such as diverting a young child's attention.

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

Leadership and management

How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?	Satisfactory
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?	Satisfactory
How well are children safeguarded?	Satisfactory

Quality and standards

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

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.