

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY376616
Inspection date	11/12/2008
Inspector	Anne Archer
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 partner and his two children aged 12 and 13 years in Finedon, Northamptonshire. The whole of the ground floor and the first floor bathroom of the childminder's house are used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The family has a pet dog and two cats.

The childminder is registered to care for six children at any one time and currently has six children on roll, including four in the early years age group. Most are part-time arrangements. She is registered on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

A caring, reliable service is offered to each child that attends Gigglebums Childminding Service ensuring their welfare needs and learning and development needs are appropriately met. Children make reasonable progress, given their age, ability and starting points. Although only minding for a short time, the childminder has got to know the children well and is completely aware of their welfare needs ensuring that all children are fully included. Children's health, safety and well-being are routinely promoted although a few policies and records are not written down in line with the welfare requirements.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- further develop use of observation and assessment to identify learning priorities and to plan relevant and motivating learning experiences for each child
- develop links with the children's other providers of the Early Years Foundation Stage so that all providers contribute to the assessment process

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

- maintain a record of checks on those elements of the environment identified in the risk assessment that need to be checked on a regular basis (Suitable premises, environment and equipment) 15/01/2008
- devise a safeguarding policy that is in line with Local Safeguarding Children Board local guidance and procedures (Safeguarding and promoting children's welfare) 15/01/2008

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder supports children's welfare, learning and development reasonably well. Information relating to children's development and welfare is shared with parents on a daily basis as the childminder appreciates the importance of having good working relationships with parents. The childminder shares details of her policies and procedures, including those relating to complaints, with parents and encourages them to share any information with her which may help her to care for their child.

The childminder is fully aware of her responsibility to keep children safe at all times and is familiar with local safeguarding procedures and expectations although these are not reflected in a written policy. She has conducted risk assessments on her home and garden and is able to highlight areas of potential risk and explain how these hazards have been eliminated or reduced. However, these are not recorded. The emergency evacuation plan is regularly practised and the childminder has clear procedures relating to road safety which further support children's safety.

Although the childminder has been minding for only a short time she has started to reflect on her practice and has plans to attend further training to develop her knowledge and understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage and so enable her to join the local childminding network.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The childminder provides a range of activities linked to children's interests which are generally appropriate to their developmental stages. Planning is basic and does not yet take account of individual children's learning requirements. Whilst the childminder observes the children at play, she does not yet use this information to identify learning priorities and plan relevant and motivating learning experiences for each child. Details of observations and progress are shared with parents and they have the opportunity to provide information about their child. However, this information is not being used to plan for the child's next steps. No links have yet been established with other providers of the Early Years Foundation Stage to share information to support the assessment process.

Most of the children cared for are very young and the childminder supports their emotional development well helping to make them feel secure and content. They are learning to acknowledge their own feelings and behave in an acceptable manner around other children and adults. Daily routines support children's health and safety effectively and children are cared for appropriately when they become ill. Although the childminder does not currently provide meals for all the children in her care, she tries to ensure by offering regular drinks and healthy, nutritious snacks that they begin to learn about the part healthy eating has in maintaining their general good health.

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?	3
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	3
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	3

Leadership and management

How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?	3
How effective is the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement?	3
How well does the setting work in partnership with parents and others?	3
How well are children safeguarded?	3

Quality and standards

How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?	3
How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?	3
How well are children helped to stay safe?	3
How well are children helped to be healthy?	3
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	3
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	3
How well are children helped develop skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being?	3

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