

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	321330
Inspection date	26/09/2008
Inspector	Diane Lynn Turner
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 has been registered since 1998. She lives with her husband in a semi-detached house in a village on the outskirts of York. All of the ground floor of her home is used for childminding purposes, with toilet facilities situated on the first floor. There is an enclosed garden at the rear of the premises for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered by Ofsted on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary part of the Childcare Register and is registered to work with an assistant. There are currently nine children on roll; five of whom are within the Early Years Foundation Stage. Their attendance is a mix of full and part time places. No children are currently being cared for overnight.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The childminder uses information gathered from parents and her own observations very well to ensure children's individual needs are met. They are kept safe and secure at all times and their learning is fostered effectively through the interesting activities that are provided. Children enjoy learning about their local area and the world around them and make good progress, given their age, starting points and abilities. There are effective partnerships with parents and other providers and the childminder's regular self-evaluation ensures that any priorities for future development are identified and acted on.

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 to help in planning the next steps in children's learning
- ensure children's full names and the times when an assistant is working with the children are recorded on the attendance register.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder has devised concise policies and procedures including those to be followed in an emergency, which are implemented very effectively to ensure the safe and efficient management of the setting. She has a very good working partnership with her assistant who fully understands how all aspects of the service operate. Detailed and thorough risk assessments are undertaken on the premises and for outings and the childminder has a sound understanding of safeguarding and protecting children from possible abuse. All of the required records are in place; however, these occasionally lack the necessary detail. For example, attendance records do not show the children's full name or the times when the childminder's assistant is also working with the children.

The childminder pays good attention to monitoring, evaluating and developing her service and fully involves her assistant, the parents and children in the process. Parent questionnaires are used to gauge satisfaction of the care and the children are often involved in making decisions about new toys and resources that are purchased. The recommendation from the previous inspection has been successfully addressed and the childminder has identified areas for future development.

All children are welcome to attend and good systems are in place to find out about their individual needs. Parents receive good information about the service. They are given a well-presented welcome pack which includes the policies and procedures for them to acknowledge before their child starts to attend, and contracts are completed. Information is effectively passed on each day about the children's activities and well-being, including a written daily care sheet for babies. The childminder has regular contact with, and has established good relationships with other settings the children also attend, such as the local school and playgroup.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children are extremely settled and comfortable in the care of the childminder because she is very welcoming and has a very caring approach. They are offered a safe, stimulating and well-equipped environment in which to play and learn and their welfare is fostered very well. They learn about keeping healthy through following good hygiene procedures and they enjoy the benefits of fresh air and exercise each day. They know how to keep themselves safe both on and off the premises. For example, they learn how to cross the road safely when out in the community and they understand what to do in the event of a fire because the childminder regularly practises the emergency evacuation procedures for the home with them.

The childminder offers a good balance of both adult-led and child initiated activities, with good opportunities for the children to choose resources for themselves. She has started to observe and assesses the children's play to help her in monitoring their progress towards the early learning goals, and each child has a developmental record. However, she has not yet begun to use her observations to plan for the next steps in their learning.

Babies are comfortable and relaxed. They happily snuggle into the childminder as they are fed; enjoy exploring the colours and sounds of the different toys, and listening to the other children singing. The older children are keen and motivated to learn and become fully immersed in the activities. For example, they show sustained concentration as they decorate their cakes, carefully spreading the icing and considering which decorations to choose. They count very well and confidently use the outdoor area, showing good control as they use wheeled toys and dig in the sand. They enjoy outings to feed the ducks and using their picture cards to find corresponding items when they visit the shops. They learn to develop good social skills as they sit at the table to eat; they behave very well and are becoming

increasingly independent. For example, they access their own wipes to clean their hands and tissues to blow their nose.

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 the last inspection.

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.