

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	401124
Inspection date	16/10/2008
Inspector	Cynthia Walker
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 1993. She lives with her husband and two adult children in an end terraced cottage in Bradley near Skipton. The childminder is within walking distance of the local school, park and toddler group. The areas used for childminding are the lounge, dining room, kitchen and conservatory on the ground floor and the children's bedrooms and bathroom on the first floor. There is an enclosed grassed area for outdoor play to the rear of the property. The family have several pets which include cats and hamsters.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children under eight years who are on the Early Years Register, the Child Care Register and the Voluntary Child Care Register. Currently there are 18 children on roll, of these five are on the Early Years Register. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The childminder provides a stimulating environment which includes interesting learning opportunities that meet all the children's needs and sustain their interest. Children enjoy their time with the childminder and make good progress. The childminder actively works with parents and others to ensure that the needs of all the children are met, by valuing each child as a unique individual. Children's welfare is promoted in most areas. The childminder is effectively evaluating her provision for children's welfare, learning and development and has identified her plans for the future.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- continue to develop an up-to-date understanding of safeguarding children issues to be able to implement the safeguarding procedures appropriately.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder is maintaining the documentation which is required for the safe and efficient management of her provision, and promotes all aspects of children's needs. She has produced written policies and procedures which are reflected in practice and effectively shared with parents. The childminder creatively organises her home and resources to actively stimulate the children's interest, and enables children to move around spontaneously and independently. Appropriate risk assessments ensure effective actions are taken to manage and eliminate risks to children.

The childminder has a good understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of her

provision and is beginning to formally identify these within her self evaluation documentation. She is committed to her own professional development and has attended a variety of short training courses and gains support from her local cluster group. The recommendation from the childminder's last inspection has been positively addressed which has a direct impact on the outcomes for children, for example, there is a good range of resources which reflect diversity.

Parents and carers receive good quality information about their children's achievements and progress through well presented individual files which include their observations, photographs and examples of their work. There are opportunities for parents to contribute to their children's observations within the files. The positive relationships with parents are strengthened as the childminder actively greets them on arrival and verbally shares ongoing information with them. The childminder has established strong links with external agencies, and has procedures in place to liaise with staff to ensure children get the support they need. Appropriate documentation to safeguard the children is in place, and the childminder maintains sufficient understanding of the signs and symptoms of abuse. However, the childminder is not confident in the procedures to follow to report any incidents.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The childminder has a sound knowledge of the learning and development requirements and confidently assists children to become active learners. Interesting observational records highlight either the adult or child led activity where the observations are completed and includes the children's next steps for learning. The childminder uses this information to plan future activities to enable individual children to progress and achieve as much as they can. The organisation of the home encourages purposeful play and exploration, which results in children being able to instigate their play and be creative. Children enthusiastically sing songs using signs with their hands to identify the animals in the song, and children are good communicators using language to negotiate at play as they carefully take a sick doll to the hospital. There is a good balance of adult and child led activities, and the children have daily out-of-doors opportunities in the garden which includes, simple gardening or on visits to the park where they had collected an interesting range of leaves to make pictures.

The childminder skilfully supports the children's learning as she challenges and extends their recognition of the initial letters of their names, and encourages them to label their own paintings. She encourages children to make connections by thinking things through, for example, asking how a piece of play dough can be made into a circle. Children are encouraged to recognise colours whilst painting and discover what happens when you mix yellow and blue paint. The childminder positively interacts with the children and actively praises them for their achievements, for example, writing a number one on the chalk board.

The childminder effectively promotes the children's health and well-being. Children confidently follow good hygiene procedures within the home, and there are clear systems in place to manage accidents or take action if children become ill. They

enjoy good social interaction as they sit and enjoy a variety of fruit and later wait in eager anticipation for their cooked lunch. Clear explanations on how to use the wheeled toys within the home enable children to be independent and still keep themselves safe. Children have developed very positive relationships and play harmoniously together, as they are encouraged to share resources and take turns at activities. The childminder ensures that her home is well resourced, safe and secure.

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?	Satisfactory

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?	Satisfactory
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
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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

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action.

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.