

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	401140
Inspection date	28/10/2008
Inspector	Carol-Anne Shaw
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 1989. She is registered on the Early Years Register and on both the voluntary and compulsory parts of the Childcare Register. She lives with her family in a three storey mid terrace house in the centre of Scarborough. The areas used for childminding are the rear playroom, kitchen on the ground floor, a bedroom and the toilet and bathroom situated on the first floor. There is an enclosed rear yard for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children under eight years old. There are currently two children on roll who are both in the early years age group.

The family have fish as pets.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association, and the local childminder support group. There are a number of schools and pre-school playgroups all within walking distance.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The children are included in all aspects of the childminder's day. She knows the children in her care extremely well, is respectful to them and utilises her knowledge of their individuality to encourage their self-confidence and self-esteem. Children have access to a good balance of adult led and child initiated activities, both indoors and outdoors, that help them make good progress in the six areas of learning. The childminder is fully aware of her role in safeguarding children; they are safe and secure in her care. The childminder has the capacity to make improvements in her practice through attending training and implementing new ideas to enhance children's welfare, learning and development opportunities. She evaluates her provision informally, although she is not fully confident in identifying future areas for development, nor the impact on these on outcomes for the children.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- develop the ongoing assesment arrangements to inform planning for each child's continuing development through play based activities
- complete the self-evaluation ensuring it identifies specific areas for future improvements in practice, and the impact on outcomes for children

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

- ensure a risk assessment is completed for each type of outing, review assessments before embarking on each specific outing

18/11/2008

The leadership and management of the early years provision

Most of the required documentation is available and details information regarding children's individual needs. The childminder is able to organise her daily routine to meet the needs of the children attending each day. The childminder follows the required policies and procedures and this in turn promotes the children's welfare in the setting. The complaints policy has been reviewed in line with current requirements and this is displayed for parents.

The childminder has completed a risk assessment of her home and garden, however, she has not included taking children on outings. These ensure any potential hazards to children are minimised, and promotes their safety whilst in her care. The environment is very well organised and bright displays around the playroom enable children to develop a sense of belonging in the childminder's care. For example, displays of children's creative work and photographs of the children at play are available at a low level.

The childminder attends regular training and this enables her to start implementing new ideas into her practice, for example, she has started completing observations of children and is planning for their next steps in most of the six areas of learning. Although the childminder evaluates her provision and has the capacity to make improvements, she has not identified specific areas for improvements, nor assessed the impact of these on outcomes for children. The childminder continues to improve her knowledge of the learning and development requirements to ensure that her process of observation, assessment and planning covers all six areas of learning equally.

Children's individual needs are effectively met as the childminder has regular exchanges of information with parents regarding their routines. They also discuss children's progress and achievements and parents receive photographs of their children engaged in activities and examples of their work. Parents are, therefore, encouraged to support their child's development at home.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children are happy and settled in the childminder's care. They demonstrate a secure relationship with the childminder, as they readily interact and engage in play together. Children have access to a good balance of adult led and child initiated activities that cover all of the six areas of learning. Children are encouraged to develop independence in the provision. They confidently choose the toys they wish to play with and the childminder sits with the children to support them during their play. The childminder supports children's learning; she interacts and encourages them to find out about the world around them. Children are involved in initiating their own learning and develop their drawings to include words and letters. The childminder offers the children lots of praise for their achievements. Children's interests are utilised effectively to support their development and this helps them make good progress and develop positive attitudes towards their learning.

Children play in welcoming premises and have access to a good range of stimulating toys that are safe, suitable and age appropriate. The childminder is very aware of her role in safeguarding children and risks to children's safety both indoors and out are minimised effectively. Children learn how to keep themselves safe when out and know why there are certain rules to abide by. Children's exposure to illness and cross infection is minimised through sharing the formal sickness policy with parents and the implementing of hygienic routines in the provision.

Pictorial reminders are on display and these reinforce to the children the importance of hand washing. Children bring food from home that is stored appropriately and the childminder supports this with healthy snacks of fruit. Children have daily access to lots of fresh air and exercise in the well organised outdoor play area. Children's behaviour is good as they learn to share and take turns in their play.

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?	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?	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
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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 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.