

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	401240
Inspection date	26/11/2008
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).

Children only attend this setting before and/or after the school day and/or during the school holidays. The judgements in this report reflect the quality of early years provision offered to children during those periods.

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 1995. She is registered under the Early Years Childcare Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the register. She lives with her husband and two children in a semi-detached house in Pickering. All of the ground floor and a designated bedroom on the first floor are used for childminding. There is an enclosed garden at the rear and side of the property for outdoor play.

The family have two guinea pigs as pets.

She is registered to care for a maximum of six children under eight years old at any one time. There are currently ten children attending, of whom five are in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). They all attend on a part-time basis.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association (NCMA) and has achieved a Silver North Yorkshire Quality Assurance award. The childminder sometimes works with an assistant.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The childminder effectively supports children's welfare and they make very good progress in their learning and development. The assessment systems of children's learning are in the process of being further developed. The children benefit from the childminder's excellent training record and her commitment to quality assurance. She has built very effective partnerships with parents. Risk assessments successfully identify any safety issues within her home, however, there are no written risk assessments relating to outings.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- continue to develop the assessment of children linking to the early years foundation stage

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

- provide a written risk assessment for any outings undertaken (W1.1) (Early Years Register)

17/12/2008

The leadership and management of the early years provision

Children benefit from the childminder's excellent commitment to training. She attends many courses and uses this knowledge, to complement the welfare,

learning and development for the children. The childminder has most of the required records, policies and procedures in place which underpin the good quality of care provided. The childminder takes responsibility to ensure that all adults who spend time with the children are suitable to do so. She assesses and minimises possible risks to children. Daily visual checks and written risk assessments successfully identify any safety issues within her home, however, there are no written risk assessments relating to outings.

The children enjoy being able to make choices in their play. They confidently access the resources which are stored in low-level storage units. The childminder spends time researching and reading the supporting guidance for registration and effectively uses this to ensure she complies with the requirements.

The childminder's ability to reflect on her practice promotes children's learning. She is using the North Yorkshire Quality Assurance to reflect and evaluate the quality of care she provides, this stimulates her to make continual improvements. The childminder responds well to feedback. As a result of the last inspection she has successfully developed the methods used to share information with parents, this now being a key strength. The parents speak highly of the childminder's care, their comments indicate that their children are happy. The childminder takes time to link with the local school and pre-school to talk to the children's key workers and retains their newsletters so that she can coordinate her activities with the experiences offered. The childminder effectively ensures that she promotes inclusive practice, where all children's individual needs are known and valued and their care and learning is tailored to suit their individual needs.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The effective support the childminder provides for the children enable them to become confident and build their self esteem. She sits with them as they read stories together and encourages them to join in with familiar lines. She supports the children who enjoy creative work helping them to plan activities so that children of all ages and abilities can participate. The childminder ensures that she organises the learning environment so that it supports children in making progress towards the early learning goals. For example, children experience many challenges in the garden which support their overall learning and development. Children are able to self select toys and equipment, from a good range which are age appropriate and organised effectively.

Children's learning is planned for in a fun and purposeful way. The childminder has recently begun to complete written observations and assessments; these include the identification of the children's possible next steps of learning. This supports the children in making progress in all areas of their development including the identification of the children's next steps of learning, so are helping the childminder in supporting the children in making progress in all areas of their development. She records the children's starting points.

Children are actively involved in their learning. They bake, help to prepare food and grow a variety of vegetables. Children are encouraged to be active learners, to

be creative and to think critically. Numbers and problem solving opportunities are provided through activities and children confidently use equipment in their play. These activities, together with well supported communication and language skills support the children's future economic well-being.

The childminder provides an inclusive environment that would enable any child who may have learning difficulties and/or disabilities to be included. She liaises closely with the parents and other services to ensure children receive well-rounded, coordinated care which also promotes their learning. Children learn to share, to be kind to others and about responsible behaviour because the childminder is consistent with the children and promotes positive behaviour.

The childminder is very aware of her responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of the children. She provides a clean, well ordered home for children to relax and play and actively encourages the children to learn about how to keep themselves well and safe from harm. They learn road safety through play and children become aware of good personal hygiene. The childminder ensures she can respond appropriately if children are ill or have an accident.

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?	2
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	2
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	2

Leadership and management

How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?	2
How effective is the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement?	2
How well does the setting work in partnership with parents and others?	2
How well are children safeguarded?	2

Quality and standards

How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?	2
How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?	2
How well are children helped to stay safe?	2
How well are children helped to be healthy?	2
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	2
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	2
How well are children helped develop skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being?	2

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.