

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY102918
Inspection date	27/11/2008
Inspector	Rosemary Beyer
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 September 2002. She lives with her family in a three bedroom house in Upper Poppleton, near York. She is currently caring for four children in the early years age group. She is also registered on the compulsory part of the Childcare Register. The childminder works Monday to Thursday, term time only.

Children use the designated playroom and adjacent conservatory. The bathroom is downstairs. There is an enclosed rear garden, which is suitable for outdoor play. The home is close to local amenities such as the school, park, and local shops. The family has a pet dog and doves in the garden.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association. She has obtained the Introduction to Childminding Practice certificate and a current, appropriate first aid certificate. She is a member of the local childminding group and is involved with the local school.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The childminder promotes children's welfare very well and ensures they are safe and secure. She has developed very good relationships with parents that ensure she has excellent information about the children to meet their needs. Parents receive daily diaries and updates on their children, and through the parent packs have access to the setting's policies and procedures. The childminder has started to use a self-evaluation system to identify key strengths or areas in need of development. She has produced a plan for the future to ensure continuing improvement, including more resources to widen children's knowledge of diversity and healthy living.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- ensure all children have opportunities to become familiar with the fire evacuation procedure by developing the recording system.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder's home is well organised and all children are able to develop independence both in personal care and when selecting resources. The flexible daily routine allows them to experience a wide range of activities in both the home and the wider community. They are able to select resources and make suggestions for activities to promote their interests and support their learning.

Safety of the children is of the highest priority and the premises are secure to

prevent access to unauthorised persons. The children learn to keep themselves safe while in the childminder's care by using resources considerately, employing good hygiene practice effectively, and good road safety procedures. An emergency evacuation procedure is in place, and fire drills are practised, however, recording does not ensure all children have opportunities to become familiar with the procedure. The childminder has a good understanding of the local safeguarding children procedures, and makes parents aware of her responsibilities to protect their children.

Parents are supportive of the care provided by the childminder, who regularly consults them to ensure she is meeting their children's needs. She has received very positive feedback, and as most parents have used her service for siblings. They value the daily feedback she provides and the diaries giving details of their children's day. All the necessary permissions are in place and parents keep the childminder informed of any changes, which ensures children's needs can be met effectively. They receive information about the complaints procedure in the parent pack, and have the Ofsted contact details should they have concerns.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The childminder plans activities weekly, but is flexible to take into account children's interests and unexpected learning opportunities. She has a good understanding of the early learning goals, which enables her to provide a wide range of activities to support the children's interests and development. She uses individual files to record each child's achievements with photographs and pieces of work. Their progress is monitored taking account of their starting points and through observations, she plans for the next steps to ensure they are making good progress. Contact with school and outside agencies ensures the needs of all children can be met.

Activities are provided to cover all the areas of learning, and the children are curious about the world and keen to learn. They watched caterpillars develop into butterflies and this has fostered their interest in the natural world, so they watch plants grow in the garden, for example. Through conversation and discussion, the childminder supports the children's communication skills, and their vocabulary is developing very well. They are also very interested in books, enjoy stories, and like to participate in telling them.

The children are also keen to learn about the wider world, using the box of multicultural resources with interest, with the different instruments, craft activities, and dressing up items providing new learning experiences. They also enjoy celebrating different festivals and country topics, when foods and cultures are highlighted. The children are developing a good awareness of diversity.

Healthy living is fostered and the children are aware of the need to eat fruit and vegetables each day, to drink plenty of water, and to have exercise and fresh air each day. Parents provide lunches and tea from home, but the children enjoy going to the shop each morning to choose the fruit or vegetables for snack, and for walks within the area including visits to the local garden centre and park. They

have also developed good hygiene practice to prevent the spread of infection, and know germs can make them ill.

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.	3

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?	3
How well does the setting work in partnership with parents and others?	1
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

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.