

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY277650
Inspection date	21/11/2008
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 was registered in March 2004. She lives with her husband who is also a registered childminder, and family in an established residential area of Acomb, west of York, close to local amenities, shops and schools. The whole of the ground floor, plus two bedrooms and the bathroom on the first floor, are used for minding.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time. She is included on the Early Years Register, and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. She is currently minding four children on a part-time basis; of these, three are in the early years age group. Registration includes overnight minding for two children. The childminder walks and drives to local schools to take and collect children. Children are taken to parks, the library and a farm.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and the local Acomb Smiles childminding group.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The childminder ensures she has sufficient information from parents to enable her to meet the individual needs of all the children minded. The good relationships they have developed ensure they keep each other informed of any concerns or achievements, and any changes which may affect the children. Children are safe and secure at all times and enjoy learning through the wide range of resources and activities provided. They are making good progress given their age, ability and starting points. The childminder has started to use a self evaluation procedure to monitor her practice and has a realistic view of her practice. She has identified opportunities for training and activities for when the outside area is completed.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- continue to develop assessments to ensure all children are making progress towards the early learning goals
- include notification of Ofsted in the uncollected and lost child policies.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder has developed comprehensive policies and procedures to ensure the safe and efficient management of the setting. These are well written, easy to understand and made available to parents in book form. Parents are made aware of the childminder's responsibilities for safeguarding their children through the child protection procedure information she provides and the safety precautions she

takes. This includes lost and uncollected child policies, however, these do not include notification of Ofsted, although the childminder is aware of the need to notify Ofsted of any significant events. No unauthorised persons are allowed unsupervised access to the children, nor are they permitted to collect them. Comprehensive risk assessments are undertaken and recorded to ensure the premises and resources are safe.

Parents and the childminder share information regularly to enable them to meet the individual child's needs. Information about the child's day and progress is recorded, and they are able to comment in their books on any achievements at home or any concerns. As a result, they feel involved in the child's learning. The childminder, parents and other bodies, such as school or playgroup, work well together to meet the needs of the children. There are currently no children with learning difficulties or disabilities cared for, but the childminder is willing to work with parents and other agencies to support any child.

The childminder has started to use a self evaluation system to monitor and evaluate her practice and has identified aspects of care she wishes to develop, such as her use of assessment to support children's development and activities for the outside area when it is completed. She has made a realistic evaluation of the provision, and works well with her husband to ensure they meet the needs of all the children.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children are settled and confident in their surroundings, having close relationships with the childminder and the other children. They have access to a wide range of resources and activities designed to promote their development in all the areas of learning. The childminder uses information about children's interests and needs when planning, however she has only just started using assessment, and has not yet developed this to effectively support their progress. The children are developing very good communication skills, with opportunities for those with English as an additional language to develop vocabulary through conversation and books. They also sing songs and rhymes. Children are able to choose which music is played over lunchtime, and have the choice of music from 20 different countries and also classical and opera.

The childminder plans a monthly theme for activities, however, children are free to choose the toys and resources they wish to use, if they do not wish to do the planned activity. The current autumn theme has provided opportunities for children to learn about the weather, plants and animals, and also to create imaginative pieces of work with leaves. Children's knowledge and understanding of the world is further developed by the activities they enjoy when learning about other cultures, and countries, including festivals and food. They also enjoy the different dressing-up clothes.

Good hygiene practice is developed as part of everyday activity, with children learning to wash their hands before food and after personal care to prevent the spread of infection. They also know food and exercise are important to help them

stay fit and well. The children understand the need for a well balanced diet, and are willing to try new foods, with fruit and vegetables always available. They are also developing their physical skills very well using the equipment in the local play area to climb and balance, and small tools or implements in the house. The children move around confidently and carefully, ensuring they do not knock over younger children.

They are learning to keep themselves safe by being careful near the road and when using resources. Older ones are careful to ensure younger children do not have access to small pieces of games, such as puzzles.

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?	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.