

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY368267
Inspection date	11/09/2008
Inspector	Margaret Bryant
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 April 2008. She lives with her husband and two children aged nine and four years of age, in the village of Thorngumbald in the East Riding of Yorkshire. All rooms downstairs of the home are used for childminding. Outdoors to the rear is a garden for children's use. This is accessed from the dining room by a step down from the patio doors. The childminder takes children on outings to the local toy library, toddler group, to organised music sessions and on walks to and from school.

The childminder is registered for a total of five children and currently there are five children on roll. She is registered on the Early Years Register, the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Children benefit from being cared for in a warm, welcoming setting with a good range of easily accessible resources. She takes time to learn about children's individual interests, plans around these and identifies their next steps of learning. Partnerships with parents and other carers of minded children are beginning to develop which benefits children. It ensures parents are fully included in their children's learning and progress. Detailed policies and procedures are inclusive and effective for all children and shared with parents. The childminder regularly evaluates her practice which helps her to recognise where improvement is needed. However, her record keeping has weaknesses.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- improve record keeping through clearly showing hours of children's attendance
- improve safety of outdoor area
- further develop knowledge and understanding of the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures
- continue to develop a two-flow exchange of information with other providers who care for minded children.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder is developing her knowledge of the Early Years Foundation stage, through actively using this in her daily work with children. Detailed systems are in place which help identify, monitor and evaluate children's next steps of learning. Children's progress links to one or more of the six areas of learning, from which further planning is identified. The childminder recognises the importance of self-

evaluation. She considers ways of continually improving the service she provides for children in consultation with parents. A two-way exchange of information takes place daily with them, verbally as well as in writing. Some links are in place with other carers of the minded children, though systems are not yet fully implemented to benefit children's overall learning and progression.

The childminder closely supervises children for their safety as they play. Risk assessments that are in place cover most areas of her home and garden. They relate to the safety of each area and the available resources and equipment in use by children. However, the garden is not totally secure and this impacts on children's safety. Although, confidentiality of records is respected, some required documentation is not of the required standard. For example, the attendance register is not accurate with children's attendance at any one time.

Children are safeguarded through close supervision and the measures in place when the childminder takes them on outings. The childminder shows an interest and commitment to furthering her knowledge through training. She has attended training in how to recognise the possible signs of abuse. However, she is not totally familiar with the Local Safeguarding Children Board reporting procedures.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children are happy and settled in the childminder's care. This is because she is calm, patient and shows care and concern for their individual needs and feelings. Children enjoy regular outings outside of the home, including to the toy library. The childminder often chooses resources which help extend and promote children's learning about other ways of life, in other countries. For example, images in books promote discussion and help children to appreciate some things which they take for granted, like running water. Through the interest children show in this, arises discussion about where water comes from and about plumbing systems.

Photographs are taken of children engaged in the many activities the childminder provides. These provide evidence of children's enjoyment and achievements. Children also have opportunities to use cameras themselves, taking photographs of things that interest them for discussion later. Children receive encouragement and learn, through example, to be nice to one another and get along together. Children are also beginning to learn about the benefits of eating healthily and grow their own tomatoes, which once ripened they enjoy to eat. They also learn about taking care of their own hygiene, such as washing their hands, and of helping to take care of their own safety. Most children have taken part in fire drills and learn on outings about the importance of road safety.

Systems are in place which record individual children's progress and identify their next steps of learning. The childminder uses the Early Years Foundation Stage guidance and statutory framework well to guide and inform her in her work with children. Parents are fully included in their children's learning with opportunities for them to comment through questionnaires which are being developed. Risk assessments in place also provide a basis for expansion. Through the systems in

place and through the childminder's system of self evaluation, all children are helped to make progress in their learning.

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?	3
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	3
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?	3
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?	3

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?	3
How well are children helped to stay safe?	3
How well are children helped to be healthy?	3
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 registration or 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.