

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	258249
Inspection date	15/09/2008
Inspector	Kate Bryan
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 1990. She lives with her partner and daughter aged 21 years in a semi-detached house in the Humberstone area of Leicester. There are local shops and parks within walking distance. The lounge/dining room, conservatory and kitchen are used for minded children and there is also a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The family has a dog and two cats and also owns two horses which are grazed elsewhere. The childminder is registered to care for six children and currently has seven children on roll, she also looks after children aged over eight years. The childminder is registered on the early years register and on the voluntary and compulsory parts of the Childcare Register.

The childminder takes and collects children from Humberstone Infant and Junior Schools and regularly attends a play group.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The provision for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage is good. Children are settled and happy because the childminder works closely with parents and other professionals to ensure that she can meet their individual needs. A good range of activities promotes children's play and learning and they enjoy regular trips into the local community so they can learn about the world around them.

The home is well organised to ensure children are kept safe, however, there is no written risk assessment in place. The childminder has a good knowledge of the areas of learning and uses planned activities to monitor children's progress, however, there are limited procedures in place to identify children's starting points. Good use of self-evaluation has enabled the childminder to identify areas that will enhance her service to children.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- ensure that arrangements are in place to determine children's starting points so their strengths and interests can be built on.

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

- ensure that a risk assessment is in place.

01/11/2008

The leadership and management of the early years provision

Children's welfare, care and safety are well promoted because the childminder has used self-evaluation effectively to identify areas for improvement. For example, she is due to undertake training in the Early Years Foundation Stage. As part of this she has also asked parents to complete comments sheets which give them the opportunity to make suggestions about her service. These comments show that parents value the childminder and how she cares for their children. The childminder also involves parents in children's learning as she informs them about what children have enjoyed during the day, for example, counting. However, their starting points are not clearly identified which makes it difficult to build on their strengths and interests.

Most records, policies and procedures are well maintained although the lack of a written risk assessment means the childminder cannot demonstrate how she has responded to identified hazards in order to keep children safe. The childminder has obtained and adapted a range of policies and procedures that support her practice and these are shared with parents when they visit. These include procedures for safeguarding children and the childminder has a good understanding of reporting procedures in order to keep children safe.

A suitable range of safety measures are in place within the home, for example stair gates, and equipment is regularly checked and cleaned to ensure it is safe for children to use. The childminder also ensures household members are appropriately vetted and children are never left with anyone who has not been cleared. This enhances safety measures in place.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The childminder provides good support to enhance children's welfare, learning and development. Children's health is well promoted as they have daily opportunities to play outdoors with a good range of equipment and regularly visit parks. These have large equipment, such as climbing frames, which promotes challenges for children. The childminder ensures drinks are always available for children and provides a variety of fruit for snacks which they are encouraged to taste.

Children learn effectively to be responsible for their own safety within the home because the childminder explains possible hazards to them, for example, being near to a hot cooker, and the consequences of this. During outings the childminder explains to children why they must stay close to her and teaches them to cross the road safely.

Within the home space is well organised to enable children to participate in a varied range of activities and for older children to access toys of their choice. For younger children resources are rotated to ensure they have a variety to stimulate their play and learning. This means all children gain confidence in selecting resources and their self-esteem is promoted.

The childminder has a good awareness of allowing children to initiate their own activities, for example creating a wall display, and she understands the importance of making sure all children can join in with all activities. To achieve this she asks

older children to encourage younger children with activities so they both learn to share and cooperate. Children behave well because the childminder makes good use of simple house rules, such as respecting each other, to make her expectations clear. Lots of praise and encouragement are used to encourage children and to let them know their behaviour has been acknowledged. The childminder spends time talking to young children and they learn by repeating words, she also reads stories to them so they understand how language works. A good range of books are also easily accessible which promotes children's choice and interests. Counting is built into routine activities, such as climbing stairs, and shape games help children to learn about numbers and space. Children enjoy making things and have been involved in creating noisy toys and a feely box. Children enjoy feeling different materials and textures in this and the childminder used this to devise a game in which children hunted for a mouse. The childminder has a good understanding of promoting the areas of learning and has planning in place to support this. She uses observations to assess children's progress and understands how these are used to inform assessments to show what children have learnt and need to learn next.

Children acknowledge a range of festivals and the childminder has taken steps to improve her awareness of other cultures so all children's needs can be met well. To achieve this she encourages children to talk about themselves and their backgrounds so they develop a good awareness of the wider world.

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?	Good
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.