

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY296505
Inspection date	03/10/2008
Inspector	Lesley Barrett
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 2004. She lives with her husband and two children aged 15 and nine years old. They live in Peterborough. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding. A bedroom is available upstairs for a child to have a rest or a sleep. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children under eight years at any one time. She is currently caring for five children in the early years age group on a part-time basis. The childminder is also registered on the compulsory and voluntary part of the childcare register.

The childminder walks to local schools and pre-schools to take and collect children. She is a member of the National Childminding Association. The childminder works alongside another registered childminder.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The childminder provides effectively for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage. Children are settled and happy as the childminder recognises each one as being unique and works closely with parents to ensure that their individual needs can be met. However she has yet to extend her provision to working with children's other key worker to ensure continuous provision for some children. The childminder has a positive attitude to improvement and use of a self evaluation form enables her to identify her strengths and weakness to improve outcomes for children.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- consider how you can liaise with other providers delivering the Early Years Foundation Stage to ensure progression and continuity of learning and care
- review policies and procedures to ensure they include all necessary information
- consider how the more able child can be successfully challenged

The leadership and management of the early years provision

Children's welfare, care and safety are well promoted as the childminder plans and provides a safe well maintained environment in which children play and learn. The childminder has attended the necessary training when registering as a childminder and is committed to improving her knowledge. She has enrolled onto a Level 3 in childcare and safeguarding course to enable her to further develop her knowledge. The childminder evaluates her practice to help her identify areas for improvement. She has taken positive action to address recommendations made at the last inspection which has helped to further promote children's health and safety. Furthermore parents are asked to complete a questionnaire which provides them

with the opportunity to make suggestions about the care and welfare of their children.

Partnership with parents and carers are effective. The childminder has fostered close relationships with parents and work closely with them for the benefit of their child. Daily diaries provide clear information about children's routines and activities. They are provided with information regarding their child's learning and encouraged to become involved in the topics being covered. However, effective links are not yet in place to enable the childminder to liaise with other providers delivering the Early Years Foundation Stage to ensure progression and continuity of learning and care for children who attended other provisions. Documentation is organised to a high standard, all required documents are in place. A range of policies and procedures are made available to parents, although some of these are sparse and do not contain sufficient detail to ensure parents are fully informed of the procedures.

Children's safety is promoted well. Risk assessments are carried out daily indoors, outdoors and on outings and recorded as required. Regular fire drills and checks of fire safety equipment further protects children. The childminder has a clear understanding of safeguarding issues and the procedures to be followed should she have any concerns about any children in her care. She also ensures that all adult household members are appropriately vetted and that children are never left alone with anyone who has not been subjected to a vetting procedure.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The childminder supports children's care and learning well. She plans and provides a good range of activities and play equipment to engage children's interest and help them make progress in all areas of learning. Children's confidence is fostered as the childminder is sensitive towards their individual needs and recognises those that require additional support on arrival to help them feel secure and a sense of belonging. Children are well behaved and are learning to share and take turns, gentle praise and encouragement helps to promote their self-esteem. Children thoroughly enjoy books and can access a good range at all times, they enjoy looking at them with their peers and in group story sessions. They particularly enjoy the 'Bear Hunt' as they recall the story and join in with the actions. Topics such as 'People who help us', capture children's interest and visits from a policeman and postman help to develop children's learning.

Children's language skills are developing well as the childminder engages them in conversation and asks questions to encourage their thinking skills. Children are able to take turns to be the special helper of the day which helps to promote their self-esteem. Through fun daily activities they are encouraged to recognise numbers, shapes and colours. Children are able to gain an awareness of the wider society as they visit places such as the park, local activity centres and farms. There good health is promoted as they use static equipment at the park and a varied range of play resources in the garden. A varied range of fresh fruit and vegetables are provided for the children throughout their time with the childminder to encourage healthy eating.

Children's creativity is prompted as they are encouraged to take part in a wide variety of craft and messy play activities, such as play dough and painting. They enjoy dressing up and participating in role play games, resources available positively promote equal opportunities and enable children to gain an awareness of the wider world. The childminder has experience of caring for children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and is able to ensure that the needs of individual children are sensitively met.

The childminder plans a broad range of experiences to enable children to make progress in all areas of learning. Frequent observations are used to track children's progress and assessments are used to inform future planning. However insufficient detail is currently given to show how the more able child can be successfully challenged. Overall children make good progress in their development.

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

The provider confirms that the requirements of the voluntary 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

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted.

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.