

## Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique reference number</b>	313381
<b>Inspection date</b>	02/10/2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Linda Phillips
<b>Type of setting</b>	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 lives with her husband in the east of Kingston upon Hull. The ground floor of the setting is used for childminding and there is an enclosed garden at the rear of the property for children's outdoor play.

The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register, the compulsory part of the Childcare Register and the voluntary part of the Childcare Register. Registration is for a maximum of six children under the age of eight years. Currently, there are six children on roll, who attend flexible sessions. 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 comfortable environment where they are safe and secure and enjoy an interesting and extremely wide range of play activities and opportunities, which recognise the uniqueness of each child. The partnership with parents, local schools and other agencies is a key strength. This contributes significantly to ensuring that the needs of all children are well met and enhances the inclusive practices of the childminder, who provides a welcoming service. Although most aspects of children's learning and development requirements are met, the planning and continuous assessment are currently not securely linked to the direct observations that take place. The learning environment is available to all children; however, although parents are verbally informed, clear systems are not yet in place to ensure that all areas of children's learning and development are being addressed.

## **What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?**

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

- ensure the address of Ofsted is included in the complaints procedure and a log is maintained of any complaints received
- develop the use of observations, involving parents, to assist in planning the next steps for children
- review the written Local Safeguarding Children Board procedure regarding notifying the regulatory body of any child protection issues.

## **The leadership and management of the early years provision**

The childminder has attended Early Years Foundation Stage training and is starting to implement systems for ensuring the areas of learning and the impact on children's development are more clearly identified. Parents were supplied with written information several months ago in line with recent changes. There is a wide range of appropriate policies and procedures in place which is shared with parents regarding services in general and is informative. Required documentation is in place, which includes, for example, accident and medication records and a

record of children attending the setting.

Since the last inspection the childminder has demonstrated an improvement by ensuring parents are immediately informed when a child sustains an injury involving their heads. She has enhanced the procedure further by asking parents to notify her when children sustain head injuries at home and in this way children are monitored and observed more closely. Although procedures are in place for reporting any safeguarding children issues and for investigating complaints, neither makes reference to notifying the regulatory body. Attempts have been made by the childminder to complete the self-evaluation, but this has yet to be completed and does not yet involve parents and other providers.

There are extremely effective links with parents, who are acknowledged as partners. Positive relationships with them impact on the children's care and welfare as there is a continuous flow of verbal information and they work together to meet the individual needs of the children.

## **The quality and standards of the early years provision**

Children's individual needs are appropriately met and they are safeguarded from harm as adequate risk assessments are in place. They are well supervised both in and out of the home where they enjoy a wide range of experience and opportunities.

Steps are taken to promote the good health and well-being of children. They have daily opportunities for outdoor play and exercise, for example, in the well-equipped garden or at the local large park to play on larger pieces of equipment and apparatus. Children are also taught the importance of healthy eating and are encouraged to develop independent hygiene practices.

The well-organised learning environment ensures children are provided with a broad and interesting range of activities to support their learning and development needs. For example, all toys, resources and play materials are systematically stored at a low level to encourage children to be independent in selecting these for themselves within the playhouse in the garden. Children benefit from frequent visits in the local community, for example, to a large public park which has an animal enclosure and reptile house. Children also have regular opportunities to attend other group settings where they socialise with other children. The individual interests of children are taken into account when activities are planned; for example, children liking the colour red are taken to the local fire station for a visit. Children enjoy playing in the fully enclosed garden and are able to learn from practical and first hand experiences, such as planting seeds and flowers.

The wide range of resources enables children to have a wealth of play and learning opportunities, for example, the puppet theatre is popular and children take great delight in making up stories and expanding their imaginations. There is also a wide range of dressing up clothes to choose from and numerous art and craft items. As a result of the latter, the playhouse is adorned with pictures, paintings and collages the children have made. To evidence the wide range of activities and opportunities,

many photographs are taken of the children at play and on outings.

Children are helped to understand, and are involved with, learning about their own personal safety. They are involved with, for example, emergency evacuation procedures and are reminded of 'stranger-danger' when out. They are also reminded of additional safety within the home; for example, they know they cannot go upstairs, but are familiar with areas they can access which are safe and secure. Children are happy, relaxed and confident in their surroundings and benefit from the warm, welcoming and inclusive environment provided.

Children are familiar with the environment and routines and have an excellent and close relationship with the childminder. As the childminder knows the children extremely well, the majority having been cared for at the setting from being young babies, she is fully aware of their individual interests, likes, dislikes and capabilities. However, although she discusses children's individual learning and development needs with parents, the current system to use her observations of children to plan across the six areas of learning and make secure development assessments is not robust. Children are, however, very well supported to develop through making their play fun and enjoyable, including learning how to share, behave well, be kind and considerate and develop relationships with others. They experience regular opportunities to develop skills in language, literacy, numeracy and use of information and communication technology to support their learning.

## 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

<b>How effective is the provision in meeting the needs of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage?</b>	Good
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	Good
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	Satisfactory

### Leadership and management

<b>How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?</b>	Good
How effective is the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement?	Satisfactory
How well does the setting work in partnership with parents and others?	Outstanding
How well are children safeguarded?	Good

### Quality and standards

<b>How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?</b>	Satisfactory
<b>How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?</b>	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?	Satisfactory

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](http://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**

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.