

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY301982
Inspection date	12/03/2009
Inspector	Dawn Bonica Brown
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 2005. She lives with her husband and two children aged five years and eight years in a house in Otley, near Leeds. The childminder is registered to care for children on the Early Years Register and the voluntary and compulsory parts of the Childcare Register. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's home is used for childminding and there is an enclosed garden for outdoor play. The family have a dog, two guinea pigs and some gerbils.

The childminder is registered to care for a total of five children under eight years and is currently caring for a total of 13 children, on a part-time basis. The childminder takes children to, and collects them from the local school. She also attends parent and toddler groups. The childminder is a member of the local childminding network.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall, the quality of the provision is satisfactory and the childminder provides highly satisfactory care in many areas of her provision. There are, however, some weaknesses in her maintenance of the records which promote children's well-being and in her assessment of their learning and development. The needs of all children are met because she recognises the uniqueness of each child and supports them all so that no child is disadvantaged.

The childminder helps all children to make progress in their learning and development. She evaluates her practice appropriately and has an adequate understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of her provision. This has enabled her to form plans for the future that are suitably targeted to bring about further improvement to the provision and good outcomes for children.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- improve the effectiveness of assessments by indentifying children's starting points and using observations to plan the next steps to meet their developmental and learning goals.

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

- obtain written parental permission at the time of the child's admission to seek any necessary emergency medical advice or treatment (Safeguarding and Welfare)
- ensure that Ofsted is notified of any change in name of the childminder within 14 days of the event (Suitability of adults).

12/03/2009

19/03/2009

The leadership and management of the early years provision

In most areas of welfare, the childminder provides effective maintenance of the records, policies and procedures required for the safe and efficient management of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and to ensure that the needs of all children are met. However, she has failed to inform Ofsted of a significant change in her situation, which is a breach of the welfare requirements.

The childminder ensures that her safeguarding systems are effective. She is knowledgeable about child protection and retains the relevant details for reporting concerns. Her first aid certificate is kept up-to-date and she has attended appropriate training to ensure that she keeps abreast of new developments in childcare. The childminder implements good monitoring systems for children's safety. For example, she undertakes robust risk assessments and maintains a safe and secure environment for children.

The toys and equipment that children use are clean, well maintained and cover a suitable range, which ensures that children remain stimulated and involved in the activities provided. The childminder protects children from contagious ailments by having an appropriate policy to ensure that children who are infectious do not attend. This is supported by a list provided to parents which helps them to identify the signs and symptoms of common ailments. Accidents in the childminder's home and injuries that children arrive with are monitored well. The childminder records medication administered to children and obtains prior written permission to do so. However, she does not ensure that she obtains prior written permission from all parents to seek emergency medical attention. This is a breach of the Welfare Requirements.

The childminder employs good hygiene routines and supports children's awareness by following good practise; reminding them to wash their hands, ensuring they use separate towels for hand drying and using appropriate gloves to change nappies.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The childminder supports children's learning and development appropriately in many areas. The learning environment helps them to make suitable progress towards the early learning goals because the childminder's home is welcoming and inviting.

Children are interested in what they are doing and concentrate well. For example, a young child concentrates on playing with a toy train for a long period, moving it within the tracks and selecting more trains that join together with magnets. Children are encouraged to use their imagination because the childminder talks to them about what they are doing, using open ended questions which encourages them to think logically about their responses. For example she asks the child 'what is the train driver going to do?' and the child replies 'he's going to pick up some

more children'.

The childminder understands the learning needs of young children and ensures that they have opportunities to explore their environment in safety. For example, they pull themselves around the setting, pushing and poking at safe and interesting objects and the childminder helps them to practise walking by holding and supporting them appropriately.

In general, the childminder provides an adequate amount of planning to promote children's enjoyment of the setting by using a list of activities in which all children are engaged. They also have outings to places of interest, such as parks and children's museums. However, their individual progress is not identified and there is no specific planning to indicate how the childminder will ensure that each child receives a challenging experience across the areas of learning. Using annotated photographs, the childminder makes adequate observations of children to form a record of their activities in the setting. However, she does not undertake assessments of their progress to ensure that children achieve as much as they can in relation to their starting points and capabilities.

The childminder promotes inclusive practice so that all the children she cares for have their welfare needs met and enjoy their time with her regardless of background. There are currently no children with additional learning or development needs being cared for. However, the childminder has a written policy on how their needs would be identified and provided for. She maintains effective links with parents and they express positive opinions of the setting. The childminder uses daily diaries to record information about young children. This is used effectively with parents to provide a good exchange of information.

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?	3
How well are children safeguarded?	3

Quality and standards

How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?	3
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?	3
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	3
How well are children helped develop skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being?	3

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.