

## Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique reference number</b>	EY314230
<b>Inspection date</b>	24/03/2009
<b>Inspector</b>	Christine Snowdon
<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 has been registered since September 2005. She lives with her husband in a residential area on the outskirts of York. Their home is within walking distance of the local schools, shops and amenities. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. She is registered to care for a maximum of six children under eight years and offers care for older children. She is currently caring for six children in the early years age range and three older children, all attend on a part-time basis.

The childminder is a member of the local childminder group and the National Childminding Association. She has a level 3 qualification in childcare.

## **Overall effectiveness of the early years provision**

Overall the quality of the provision is outstanding. Children are cared for in an exceptionally well-organised and child-orientated home where their safety and welfare are given the utmost priority. All children are highly valued as individuals and offered a wonderful range of activities which fully support and extend their learning in fun and exciting ways. An extensive range of documentation is in place and effective systems are used to record children's progress and development. The exceptional working relationships already established with the parents contribute significantly to the childminder's secure knowledge of the individual needs of all the children in her care. Superb self-evaluation demonstrates unquestionable commitment to the continual improvement of outcomes for children.

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

To further improve the high quality early years provision the registered person should consider:

- complementing the existing detailed safeguarding policy so that the procedure to be followed in the event of an allegation being made against the provider is more clearly defined.

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

Children are helped to stay safe to an excellent standard. Risk assessments, which are detailed and cover all outings as well as the premises, are comprehensive in managing or eliminating risks. These, along with an extensive range of health and safety policies and procedures, work effectively in practice. Children are further safeguarded as a result of the childminder's in-depth knowledge of child protection

and up-to-date procedures, this is fully supported by training and a comprehensive policy which includes some information about procedures to follow should an allegation be made against the childminder. Extremely well-organised and effective systems, which includes extensive documentation, underpin this exemplary provision and ensure children are safeguarded, included and their welfare fully promoted.

The childminder fully engages in reflective practice, using information and observations gathered to regularly evaluate her practice and the impact of these on the outcomes for children. Her completed Ofsted self-evaluation form is very detailed and successfully identifies her many strengths and the areas she intends developing further. In addition, she actively seeks the views of parents through questionnaires and their extremely positive responses reflect their total satisfaction. They praise the childminder and show they are delighted with the progress their children are making. For example, they write, 'a fantastic home from home environment' and that 'nothing could be improved'. The childminder knows the children in her care very well indeed and uses this knowledge effectively to plan and provide an exceptional range of learning experiences that build on their individual likes and interests. Parents are highly involved in their children's learning and development by providing information to establish starting points, contributing to their child's learning folders and supporting their next steps in learning which is clearly identified and recorded by the childminder. Documentation clearly shows how the well planned range of learning opportunities fully supports and extends the excellent progress that the children are making.

The childminder is highly committed to developing her own knowledge and development. She actively seeks information to complement her practice through the internet, and attends a wide range of training courses. The skills and knowledge she acquires are used effectively to complement her already excellent provision and ensure continual improvement.

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

The childminder is well qualified and experienced in childcare. She is highly motivated, enthusiastic and passionate about providing the children with maximum learning experiences that are fun and enjoyable. This is reflected in her inspiring and welcoming provision which is effectively organised, highly accessible and inviting to all age groups in order to fully support their learning and development. For example, the extensive range of good quality toys and activities are stored in see through boxes on a purpose built storage system. All boxes are clearly labelled both in writing and a supporting photograph of the contents, this effectively promotes children's early reading skills and independence through free choice and self-selection. Warm and trusting relationships between the childminder and children are evident. Her consistent and positive interactions enable children to feel secure and confident and make excellent progress in their learning. The childminder has carefully selected a wide range of resources from her travels that reflect the diversity of children and adults in the wider world, that helps challenge children's thinking.

An exciting range of opportunities are provided for children to learn about nature and living creatures. They help to collect frog spawn from a local pond into a glass container so they can see how they grow into tiny frogs over a period of time. These are then released back into the garden. The addition of reference books and plastic frogs add to this interactive learning display. Children have been learning about reptiles and have made snake models from papier-mâché. The childminder provides some plastic coloured snakes for them to refer to whilst they paint their models. They have a wonderful time and concentrate really well, choosing and mixing the colours together and use chunky brushes to paint their snakes. She shows them how to make spots with their fingers and this progresses into painting their hands and making handprints. They enjoy making marks and running their fingers through the spilt blobs of paint and throughout the activity the childminder talks to them about the colours and textures as well as praising and valuing their individual creativity. They develop good coordination skills as they use the pliers to turn the screws in the workbench and add the cogs and wheels. They watch with interests as the childminder shows them how to fit and release the clamp, then try to do it themselves and the childminder says well done and claps their achievement. Children have great fun experimenting with the different sounds as they use the lovely range of musical instruments, many of which are authentic and made from natural materials. They each choose a different one to blow and the childminder asks what kind of sound it makes, and they say a train and a bird.

Children are very happy, relaxed and confident in the childminder's setting. They truly benefit from the very close and caring relationship they have with her. As a result, behaviour is exemplary and children play exceptionally well together and are forming firm friendships with one another. Children are also taken to local toddler groups and play sessions to enable them to further develop their social skills and confidence.

Innovative activities and resources help children to keep themselves safe. In addition to taking part in the regular emergency evacuation drills, the childminder accesses puzzle books and on line activities from various safety organisations. Plans are in place for the children to take part in a road safety awareness session during the school holidays and this is to be promoted through effective role play activities. The excellent provision of healthy and nutritious meals and snacks and extensive opportunities for fresh air and exercise fully promotes children's all round good health and well-being.

## 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

<b>How effective is the provision in meeting the needs of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage?</b>	1
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	1
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	1

### Leadership and management

<b>How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?</b>	1
How effective is the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement?	1
How well does the setting work in partnership with parents and others?	1
How well are children safeguarded?	1

### Quality and standards

<b>How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?</b>	1
<b>How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?</b>	1
How well are children helped to stay safe?	1
How well are children helped to be healthy?	1
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	1
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	1
How well are children helped develop skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being?	1

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
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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.