

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY233737
Inspection date	21/01/2009
Inspector	Glenda Kathleen Field

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 has been registered since 2003. She lives with her husband and three children aged 11, 13 and 15 in a house in Lowestoft, Suffolk. Areas of the home used for childminding are on the ground floor only and consist of a children's playroom and large kitchen with eating area. The dining room is used for sleeping children. A secure garden is available for outdoor play. There is level access to the provision. The family keep a tortoise, rabbit and guinea pigs all housed in hutches in the rear garden, and two dogs and two cats as pets.

The childminder may care for a maximum of six children aged under eight years at any one time. There are currently seven children on roll of whom two are within the early years age group. The childminder is also registered on the voluntary and compulsory parts of the Childcare Register. The childminder takes children for visits to the park, Pets Corner at Oulton Broad, parent and toddler groups, children's soft play centres, and visits to other childminders. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The childminder provides a welcoming environment for all children and their families. Children's individuality is acknowledged by the childminder who obtains useful information regarding requirements and preferences to ensure their needs are inclusively met and individual routines followed. Children make steady progress in their learning and development through a variety of enjoyable activities and easily accessed resources. However, some required documentation is not in place. Recommendations made at the last inspection have been satisfactorily met.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- continue to develop the use of reflective practice to identify the setting's strengths and priorities for improvement that will improve the quality of the provision for all children
- use observation and assessment to identify children's next steps in their learning.

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

- complete a written risk assessment for the premises and each specific outing made.(Suitable premises, environment and equipment)

21/02/2009

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder demonstrates her positive commitment to continual improvement by attending relevant training courses. For example, she is currently working towards an NVQ Level 3 qualification in childcare and education and she has recently attended training for the Early Years Foundation Stage. She has acted on the recommendation made at the last inspection.

The childminder works closely with parents to seek their views. Parents complete questionnaires and have written testimonials to the childminder that show they are extremely happy with the service the childminder provides. Records, policies and procedures are easily accessible, used appropriately and made available to parents. Information regarding children's welfare achievements and progress is shared through regular discussions and written records. This results in an excellent partnership with parents. The childminder maintains a close working relationship with outside agencies and other settings which the minded children attend. This enables her to meet the needs of the children very well.

The childminder has a good knowledge of safeguarding children. She has a clear policy in place and works well with parents, ensuring that the welfare and protection of children is her priority. She takes care not to allow people whose suitability has not been checked to have unsupervised contact with the children while they are being cared for. The childminder completes daily visual checks of the premises, however, she does not maintain a written record of risk assessments of the premises or specific outings made with minded children. The childminder has started to keep a written record of self-evaluation but this does not yet clearly show priorities for improvement.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children are welcomed at the setting. They receive support and affection which results in them feeling confident, motivated, healthy, happy and secure. Their independence is promoted well through easy access to a wide range of resources. The childminder uses her good knowledge and understanding of child development to informally plan interesting activities both indoors and out. She treats children with equal concern, respecting their individuality and meeting their needs. The childminder effectively promotes inclusive practice through encouraging the children to take part in activities which are appropriate to their different needs and abilities. Anti-discriminatory practice is actively promoted so that all children feel valued.

The childminder uses her good knowledge of child development to informally plan activities which are based on the children's interests. Children learn about their local area by going on outings, for example to the library, parent and toddler groups and children's soft play areas. This enables them to learn to socialise, share and make friends and enhances their physical development. They enjoy creative activities, such as gluing, painting drawing and play dough. Also, they complete jigsaw puzzles and play with construction resources, thus learning about size and

shape. Books are shared with the childminder helping children to use books correctly and understand that print carries meaning. Imaginative play is enjoyed by children as they use the train set and other small world resources. They receive skilful support from the childminder to extend their play and develop their language. As a result, the children are making good progress towards the early learning goals. Observations are made and assessment records in the form of 'My Learning Journey' books are kept. Parents also contribute their own information regarding children's starting points. However, the records do not show the next steps for children's individual learning.

Children are cared for in a very clean, safe and secure environment, where they learn how to keep themselves safe, indoors and outdoors. For example, the childminder helps them to learn about road safety when they are out walking. Children also take part in fire drills which teaches them how to stay safe in an emergency. Routines such as regular hand washing before eating, are in place to help them learn about health and hygiene. The childminder has attended first aid training, therefore, she is aware of how to care for children in the event of an accident. Accident and medication records are maintained correctly.

Children are developing a good knowledge of the importance of physical activity and fresh air as they go on regular outings. They develop physical skills through regular use of the swings and slides in the garden and park and when using large play equipment at parent and toddler groups. They learn about healthy eating through discussion while eating their meals and snacks with the childminder. The children behave well, are learning to share, and show good manners. The childminder follows her policy on behaviour management using positive strategies, such as being a good role model and praising the children when they behave well.

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?	2
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	2
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	2

Leadership and management

How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?	2
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?	1
How well are children safeguarded?	2

Quality and standards

How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?	2
How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?	2
How well are children helped to stay safe?	2
How well are children helped to be healthy?	2
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	2
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	2
How well are children helped develop skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being?	2

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:

Not Met (with actions)

The provider confirms that the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register are:

Not Met (with actions)

The registered provider does not meet the requirements of the compulsory and or voluntary part/s of the Childcare Register.

To comply with the requirements of the compulsory part of the Childcare Register, the registered person must take the following action/s by the specified date:

- take action as specified in the early years section of the report (Suitable premises, environment and equipment)

21/02/2009

To comply with the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register, the registered person must take the following action/s by the specified date:

- take action as specified in the early years section of the report (Suitable premises, environment and equipment)

21/02/2009

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.