

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	260445
Inspection date	14/01/2009
Inspector	Melanie Arnold
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 2001. She lives with her husband and three children in a village location close to Retford, Tuxford, and Ollerton. The whole ground floor of the property is used for childminding, which includes access to bathroom and sleeping facilities. There is an enclosed, secure garden for outside play. The house is located on a small slope and access to the premises is gained by stepping over the door frame.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children under eight years at any one time. There are currently six children on roll and five of these children are within the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). The childminder also cares for older children and is registered by Ofsted on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Children's welfare is effectively promoted as they are cared for in a safe, well maintained home, where space and resources are well organised to meet their needs. Each child is valued as an individual and provided with good levels of support to ensure they are making mainly effective progress in their learning and development. Effective partnership working with parents, carers and other providers ensures no child is disadvantaged and helps to promote their continuity of care and learning. The childminder has made improvements since the last inspection and she is well aware of her strengths and areas requiring further development, to ensure children benefit from a continually developing setting.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- develop further the system to fully observe and assess children's achievements in relation to the early learning goals and use these to identify learning priorities to help each child make progress.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

Children are happy and settled in the well organised environment. The childminder utilises space well to ensure children have access to a good range of developmentally appropriate toys and resources. Children's individual needs are met through the childminder recognising the uniqueness of each child, which ensures their welfare is promoted and enables them to make good progress in their learning and development. The childminder has established effective links with parents, carers and other providers to help promote the integration of children's care and learning.

The childminder ensures records, policies and procedures required for the safe and efficient management of the EYFS are in place, completed well and stored with regard to maintaining confidentiality. Children's safety is protected through the childminder's effective practices. For example, risk assessment records show how the childminder minimises potential hazards to children's health and safety. Children remain in the childminder's care at all times, which ensures they do not come into contact with any unauthorised people, which also protects them from harm. The childminder has made improvements to her provision since the last inspection. She has developed activities to help children value differences and diversity and she has further developed her systems to ensure parents and carers are kept well informed about her provision and the activities their children participate in. The childminder strives to make continuous improvements and she is beginning to use a process of self-evaluation to help her achieve this fully.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children are making good progress in their learning and development through the childminder skilfully promoting several areas of learning during individual activities. For example, when playing with play-dough children's physical development is promoted as they manipulate the dough into shapes using their hands, they also learn about letters and numbers because the childminder encourages children to make letter and number shapes and cut these out of the dough. As children play together they learn to co-operate and form relationships with their peers. Therefore, during one activity children are enabled to make progress across several areas of learning. Children have fun as they participate in a good range of adult-led and child-initiated activities delivered through indoor and outdoor play. For example, children help to plant and care for vegetables in the garden, they regularly go for walks around the village collecting leaves and other natural resources to make collages and they have fun playing with the toys and resources inside. The childminder is beginning to make observations of children and she has a general awareness of how each child is making progress. However, observation and assessment systems have yet to be linked to the early learning goals to ensure children's next steps for learning are fully identified to ensure children make effective progress in all areas.

Children's individual needs are fully met as the childminder plans activities in line with their specific interests and she adapts activities to ensure all children can participate. Children are provided with good levels of support to help them feel settled and secure in the childminder's care. They are encouraged to behave well, form positive relationships with their peers and develop confidence. All of which contributes to providing a secure foundation for their later learning. Children are fully safeguarded and their welfare promoted through the positive steps the childminder takes. For example, the childminder has a clear understanding of her role and responsibility with regard to child protection and she implements effective outings procedures to ensure children remain safe at all times. Children's good health is promoted through the provision of nutritious meals and snacks and a clear exclusion policy helps to ensure children are kept away from the setting when they

are ill, minimising the risk of the spread of infection. Children's awareness of maintaining their own health and safety is promoted during the daily routine and through discussions. For example, children develop good hygiene practices during the daily routine, they are encouraged to be fit and active on the regular walk to and from school, where their understanding of road safety and 'stranger danger' issues are also promoted.

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?	2
How well does the setting work in partnership with parents and others?	2
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:

- ensure the child protection policy includes details of procedures to follow in the event of an allegation being made against the childminder or a member of the childminder's household. (Arrangements for Safeguarding Children).

16/02/2009

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 compulsory part of the Childcare Register (Arrangements for Safeguarding Children).

16/02/2009

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.