

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	208952
Inspection date	27/02/2009
Inspector	Clare Johnson
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 for 30 years. She lives alone in a semi-detached house in the village of Welton, about six miles from the city of Lincoln, Lincolnshire. The whole house except the childminder's bedroom is used for minding. The house is within walking distance of the local school and pre-school, park and shops. The whole of the property apart from one bedroom is used for childminding and the toilet is on the first floor. The property is accessed via a step to the front door. There is a small enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children under eight years at any one time and there are currently 12 children on roll. The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. There are children currently attending that have learning difficulties and/or disabilities, however, none for whom English is an additional language. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and she receives support from the local authority. She is the local childminding vacancy coordinator and has an National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) Level 3 in Childcare and Education. The childminder has two dogs.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is good. The childminder effectively meets the needs of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). She treats children as individuals and puts a great effort into getting to know them very well. Children's welfare is promoted and they are making good progress in their learning and development. The childminder has forged excellent partnerships with parents and carers as well as child care professionals in the community such as practitioners from the local school and pre-school. The systems of self-evaluation the childminder uses are effective in identifying areas for improvement and she is pro-active in addressing these areas.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- develop the systems of observation and assessment further to ensure children are making progress towards the early learning goals in all areas of learning based on their age and stage of development.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder organises her setting well. She has been a childminder for many years and she demonstrates a real enthusiasm for childcare. She devotes her life to the children she minds as she regularly cares for children in the evenings and weekends as well as during the day. She has developed good relationships with

the parents and carers of the children she minds and this enables them to work together for the benefit of the children. The childminder works well in partnership with the local authority. She co-ordinates childminding vacancies in the area and actively tries to recruit new childminders and offer them support. She works well in partnership with childcare practitioners from the local school and pre-school to ensure children's needs are met. The childminder maintains her documentation well. She conducts risk assessments of her home and garden and takes action to minimise the risks to children. The childminder is keen on training to further her professional development. She has successfully completed an NVQ Level 3 qualification in childcare and wants to continue developing her qualifications. The childminder constantly reflects on her practice. She uses this self-evaluation to ensure that she is always striving to provide a quality experience for the children. She asks the children and their parents what they think about her service and the activities provided and uses their feedback to make improvements in the future.

The childminder has taken action regarding the recommendations made at her last inspection. She was asked to ensure that permission from parents to seek emergency medical treatment was in place for all children. She implemented this immediately and always ensures she obtains it from parents of new children. She was also asked to ensure effective hygiene routines are in place with regard to pets and children's toys. The childminder ensures the home is kept clean. She regularly washes children's toys and ensures the dogs' health is maintained. All parents are aware that the childminder has dogs and that they use the areas of the house that minded children use.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children are learning and developing well with the childminder. She provides a good range of play based activities for the children based on their interests and developmental needs. She gets to know the children well and then aims to support their learning and development based on the observations she makes of them. Children have freedom of choice when they are with the childminder. They can play with the resources the childminder has put out for them, ask for alternative resources or join in with activities the childminder has devised. The childminder supports children's learning by asking them lots of questions to make them think. They have many interesting conversations and the childminder devotes all of her time to the children. She interacts well with them and has a kind and caring manner that they benefit from. Children enjoy lots of cuddles and the childminder regularly praises them. This is fostering their self-esteem. The childminder has developed a book for each child where she can record observations she makes, photographs and examples of the children's work. Although these books are useful and a lovely memento the observations are not always clearly linked to the EYFS and so children's progress towards the early learning goals is not always clearly evident.

Children's welfare is promoted by the childminder. They are safeguarded as the childminder has a good understanding of her roles and responsibilities regarding child protection. The childminder's home is safe and secure and she encourages the children to think about their own safety. Children are provided with healthy

foods by the childminder. They get out and about each day as they walk to and from school and pre-school. They also attend various groups such as mother and toddlers and sometimes go on trips to Lincoln in the car. Children behave well when they are with the childminder. She encourages manners and is a good role model to the children. The childminder supports children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. She works with parents and carers to ensure their needs are met and has undergone training to support her knowledge and skills.

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:	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.