

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	256257
Inspection date	04/02/2009
Inspector	Melanie Calway
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 1993. She lives with her three children aged 20, 18 and 14 in a village near to King's Lynn in Norfolk. The whole of the property is used for childminding. Access to the property is by means of a small step and there is a downstairs bathroom. The outside play area is currently not in use. The childminder walks and drives to take and collect children from local schools and pre-schools and takes children to local parks and to feed the ducks.

The childminder is registered to care for six children at any one time and is currently minding six children in the early years age group. She is also registered to care for a maximum of three children overnight. She is registered on the Early Years Register and on the compulsory part of the Childcare Register. The family has two rabbits who live outside and two dogs.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The childminder provides effectively for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage. Children benefit from a safe and secure environment. The childminder knows the children well and provides activities which she knows they will be interested in. She has a very friendly relationship with parents and a good two-way exchange of information is in place to ensure that children's needs are met. Children who have specific requirements are fully included in the setting. The childminder is beginning to put systems in place to reflect on and evaluate her practice.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- develop systems for observation and assessment in order to record children's achievements and plan for them as individuals
- promote children's good health by improving the arrangements for hand drying and by making fresh drinking water readily accessible at all times
- develop the record of risk assessment to include a full assessment for each type of outing.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

Children's welfare, care and safety are promoted well. The childminder organises her service to ensure that she is meeting children's needs effectively. The childminder attends relevant training and has begun to evaluate her practice by completing a self-evaluation form and by seeking the views of parents about her service. The childminder has a very good relationship with parents who express appreciation of the care received. Information about children's care is exchanged on a daily basis and the childminder communicates with other providers about the

children. Parents are given information about the service while they are settling children in. The childminder knows the children well and plans activities based on their abilities and interests.

Children are cared for in a safe environment. The premises are secure and children can move about safely within the environment. The childminder supervises children well. A risk assessment is in place, which covers the home environment and outings and the childminder makes sure that children are safe when walking out or going on outings by checking venues in advance. However, she has not kept a separate record of risk assessment for each type of outing. The fire evacuation plan is displayed and the childminder practises this with children to ensure that they can get out safely in the event of a fire. Children are safeguarded from the risk of abuse as the childminder has undertaken training on safeguarding and is aware of her responsibility to refer any concerns she may have about children. Up to date information on safeguarding is kept including the referral number so that she can act appropriately if necessary.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children have built up good relationships with the childminder and are happy and settled. They are able to choose from a range of toys which are put out at their level. Children enjoy playing with the construction sets and making castles and younger children have a selection of resources appropriate to their age. Toys are rotated to provide variety and the childminder is aware of the children's interests and stage of development and provides appropriate experiences for them. However, she is not using observation systematically to record their achievements in order to plan for them as individuals and to help them to progress. The childminder sits with children as they play and chats to them to encourage their language development and supports them while they do jigsaw puzzles. Construction sets and puzzles promote children's problem solving skills. Children explore materials as they play with play dough or do cookery activities. Children go for walks on most days either to feed the ducks and walk the family dog or enjoy outings to nearby parks and attractions. Outdoor play is limited as the outdoor area is currently out of use. Children are forming positive relationships with each other and the childminder and are learning to respect each other's needs.

Children's health is suitably promoted. Satisfactory hygiene procedures are in place. The home is clean and well maintained and children are encouraged to wash their hands before they eat and after they use the toilet. They can be independent and private in the downstairs toilet. However, they use a shared towel which increases the risk of cross-infection. Nappies are dealt with appropriately. Information about children's health needs is obtained and care plans are in place for children with allergies. The childminder has been trained to administer specific treatment to ensure that children are safe and can be fully included in the setting. Parents provide snacks and meals and provide a broadly balanced diet. Children can reach their juice to help themselves to a drink when they need one. However, fresh drinking water is not readily accessible at all times. Children play in a safe environment and are given explanations to help them to understand how to play safely. They are taught about keeping safe when out and about. Children are

encouraged to behave well and are given praise to foster their confidence and self-esteem. Children learn skills for the future as they learn to play together and respect each other's needs.

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.	3

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?	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?	3
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?	3
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 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:

- devise a written statement of procedures to be followed for safeguarding of children from abuse or neglect.

04/03/2009

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.