

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	256365
Inspection date	11/02/2009
Inspector	Lesley Gadd
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 1999. She lives with her husband and adult daughter in Bawburgh, just outside Norwich, in Norfolk. All of the home, except for two family bedrooms are used for childminding and there is an enclosed garden for outdoor play. There are some steps leading up to the childminder's house however, the back entrance is accessible. The childminder takes and collects children from local schools and playgroups where she has developed links to support the care she provides for the children. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children under the age of eight years and is currently caring for five children in the early years age group, on a part-time basis. This provision is registered by Ofsted on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is good. The childminder provides a high quality service for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). She knows the children she cares for very well, recognising that they are individuals and working closely with parents to ensure that all their needs are met. Children benefit from the warm, homely environment where they are respected and valued. They enjoy a wide range of activities and the childminder is committed to further supporting the children's learning. Children's welfare is given good consideration with health, safety, safeguarding and partnership with parents and others being given exceptional support.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- continue with plans to develop assessments of children's skills to further support their future learning and actively recognise their progress.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

Children's welfare and learning is actively supported by the childminder who effectively utilises the EYFS to ensure she offers a strong service to the children and families who attend. Regular training helps the childminder keep her skills up to date in relation to matters such as, first aid, child protection and the new EYFS. The childminder shows an ongoing commitment to evaluating her service through talking with children, parents and utilising written questionnaires, to identify additional areas for improvement. Recommendations from the previous inspection, including providing additional information for parents and practising emergency evacuation procedures, have been addressed. An accessible set of policies and procedures help the childminder manage her service well and parents are informed

about what to do if they have a complaint. The childminder knows the children she cares for exceptionally well and organises her day to follow their personal routines from home, aiding children's sense of security.

Children's safety is given exceptional consideration in this setting. Children are well supervised at all times and comprehensive risk assessment checklists help the childminder ensure risks are reduced for children within the home, outdoors and on outings on a daily basis. This reassures parents that their children's safety is the childminder's primary concern whilst they are in her care. The childminder has a robust understanding of safeguarding issues and holds current procedural information to help her seek prompt support for children, should she have any protection concerns.

Children have growing opportunities to develop their awareness of others needs and the wider world. They celebrate Chinese New Year by making dragon puppets, tasting noodles and learn how to eat using chopsticks. Through books and a range of positive resources children discuss different skin tones, abilities and the fact both boys and girls can take part in all activities regardless of gender.

Children benefit from the very effective, positive working relationships the childminder has with their parents and other local facilities that they attend. This ensures continuity of care and promotes learning. The childminder initially seeks information from parents about the children and uses this to ensure their needs are met. Parents, and other settings the children attend, are drawn into regular conversations with the childminder who utilises the children's written learning stories to discuss and secure their progress. Children state that they love everything about coming to the childminder's and parents comment very favourably on the childminder's care including the fact that she is 'trustworthy', 'extremely informative' and that they feel 'kept up-to-date with their children's progress'.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children are happy, secure and make good progress in their learning and development from an early age. The childminder has a strong knowledge of the EYFS and offers an inviting range of activities. However, assessment records of children's skills are not entirely effective and opportunities are missed to further support children's future learning and actively recognise their progress. The childminder nurtures the children well, offering a comforting lap when needed, and she competently guides and facilitates the children in their exploration and discovery. Younger children's senses are stimulated as they play creatively with paints and a rich range of other messy activities such as sand, water and glue. They learn about the properties of materials as they squeeze the paint and pat it onto the paper, making patterns. The childminder is quick to praise children who beam with delight at their creative achievements. Younger children use their imagination to dress up in jewellery, considering their image in the mirror, and older children show a flair for performing plays to willing audiences.

Younger children show good concentration skills as they enjoy books and sit

individually with the childminder studying the images on an activity toy. The childminder skilfully uses open questions with the children, encouraging them to develop their thinking, and children competently call out familiar colours on the toy. All children develop their counting skills well through songs and they comment on the number of steps into the garden. Younger children excitedly communicate about everything during their time with the childminder. They use language to describe what they are doing and enjoy the challenge of pronouncing new words such as 'hexagon'. The childminder provides a running oral commentary alongside the children's chatter, fostering their communication. Children's independence is promoted as they make a good attempt to put their clothes on when going outside.

Children are welcomed into a safe, homely environment where they are learning to use resources safely. For example, they know that they need to be careful when using implements for cooking to avoid harming themselves or others. Children's good health is exceptionally well promoted. The childminder actively gathers information from parents regarding any issues such as medical or dietary needs and offers a nutritious diet, rich in fresh produce. Children have a strong awareness of where food comes from, as they pick the apples off the tree and they have many opportunities to play and exercise in the fresh air, contributing to children's understanding of a healthy lifestyle. Effective organisation of the premises and resources allows children to choose freely what they wish to do, fostering their self-reliance. Children have good play space and are able to relax on comfortable furniture or rest undisturbed in a separate bedroom.

Children behave very well. They are able to play independently or together, with younger children being well supported in learning how to share and be kind to friends. Children are helped to learn right from wrong through the positive role model that the childminder presents and the ongoing praise offered to them, raising their self-esteem and confidence. The childminder works closely with parents, and other settings that the children attend, to ensure the children receive consistent support in developing their social 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?	1
How well are children safeguarded?	1

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?	1
How well are children helped to be healthy?	1
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
---	-----

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

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.