

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY304337
Inspection date	16/03/2009
Inspector	Patricia King
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

This childminder registered in 2005. She lives with her husband, children aged eight and 13 years and two adult children in the city of Leicester. All of the ground floor and the bathroom and one bedroom on the first floor of the childminder's home is used. There is an enclosed rear garden for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children under eight at any one time, of whom no more than three may be in the early years age group. She is currently minding two children in this age group. She also offers care to children aged between five to 11 years. The provision is registered by Ofsted on the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register as well as the Early Years Register.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is satisfactory. The childminder has arranged her home to provide a welcoming environment where most hazards have been recognised and minimised. She finds out the information and details necessary to meet children's individual care needs and works closely with parents and any other providers or agencies working with children to promote continuity of care and development. She develops positive relationships with children and their parents which enables her to include and settle all children in her care and provide a suitable range of activities for them to participate in. She has not yet established an effective system to evaluate her practice which means her capacity to maintain continuous improvement is not fully secure.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- use the records of observations and assessments to establish that learning is secure and plan for the next steps
- promote safety by ensuring that dangerous substances in the kitchen are made safe or inaccessible to children
- develop systems to self-evaluate and monitor practice to recognise strengths and weaknesses and secure a capacity for continued development.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

A suitable range of written policies and procedures are in place to promote children's health, safety and welfare and copies of these documents are available to parents. The childminder promotes children's safety by undertaking risk assessments of the premises and any outings and by maintaining close supervision

at all times, however, dangerous substances in the kitchen have not been made safe. Children are safeguarded effectively because the childminder has a sound understanding of child protection procedures and knows what to do to report any concerns.

The childminder has established systems to sensitively observe and assess what children can do and parents are informed verbally of their children's progress and care. However, she is not yet using the information gathered from observations to plan for individual children's next steps. She has positive relationships with parents and is developing contacts with others involved in the children's lives, for example, the local schools which supports children's overall development.

The childminder gives careful consideration to the inclusion of all children and effectively organises activities and learning opportunities so that they are fully enabled to participate safely and confidently. For example, she is learning other languages to support the care and welfare of children who speak English as an additional language. She has completed all the improvements recommended at her previous inspection but she has not yet established systems to effectively assess her strengths and weaknesses and promote continued improvement.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The childminder provides a warm, secure environment for children where they feel confident to express their own needs, for example, a favourite story or a comforting cuddle which means they develop a real sense of belonging. A suitable variety of toys and resources are kept within easy reach to promote independence and children move freely around the areas used for play. She plans and provides an appropriate range of activities and opportunities to engage children's interest and help them to make progress across all areas of learning. Children are happy and settled in her care and have formed positive relationships with her and her family.

Children behave well are developing an understanding of what is right and wrong. They are learning to share, take turns and show care and concern for each other. They follow the sensible house rules established to promote safe behaviour and respond happily to gentle reminders when these are needed. They are learning to be safe outside they home as they practise road safety on outings and talk about stranger awareness. Children's health and wellbeing are suitably promoted because the childminder is a positive role model and helps children learn through daily routines. For example, children are beginning to understand why good hygiene and personal care routines are important to promote their good health and welfare. The childminder provides a selection of nutritious snacks and talks to children about the importance of having a healthy balanced daily diet.

The childminder understands the needs of children of differing ages and stages of development and that children learn as they play. She gets down to their level, spends time talking to them and sets challenges to promote learning and development. For example, she places enticing and interesting toys and activities to encourage reaching, stretching and mobility in babies and early movers. She

encourages children to observe and ask questions about the environment and the lifestyles of others helping them to find out about the wider world and their place in it. She helps them to learn about their own community as they visit groups, the library and shops where they help the childminder purchase healthy options from their shopping lists. In this way she captures planned and spontaneous opportunities to help children learn.

Children explore and exercise in the fresh air promoting their health and learning as they play. Children have suitable opportunities to use their imagination and creativity as they make models and pictures. The childminder knows the children well which means their individual needs and abilities are recognised and regarded to ensure all children are fully included and enabled to participate in the daily routines.

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?	3
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	3
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?	3
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?	3
How well are children safeguarded?	3

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?	3
How well are children helped to stay safe?	3
How well are children helped to be healthy?	3
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	3
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	3
How well are children helped develop skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being?	3

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

Since the last inspection Ofsted has received a complaint that required the provider to take action. This related to suitability of persons caring for children, safety and supervision and records. An inspector visited and based upon the evidence actions were set to ensure that all persons over the age of 16 years of age living in the household when children are being minded undergo checks including a criminal records check; ensure that children are under the direct supervision of the childminder at all times; and to ensure that the daily record of attendance includes the names of all children being looked after on the premises, including their hours of attendance. The childminder responded to the actions and continues to be qualified for registration.

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.