

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	251215
Inspection date	21/01/2009
Inspector	Deirdra Keating
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 children aged 10 and 14 in Barham, Suffolk. The whole of the property is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The premises are accessible via the side entrance which has a low step.

A maximum of six children may attend the setting at any one time. There are currently six children attending who are within the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) years. The childminder also offers care to children aged over five years to 12 years. This provision is registered by Ofsted on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare register.

The childminder walks to the local school to take and collect children. She attends the local parent and toddler group with the children.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The childminder provides effectively for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage. Children are happy and settled in the clean, friendly environment of the childminder's home. Their individual needs are respected and catered for by the promotion of inclusive practice and working with their parents. They make good progress in their learning and development, and are supported well through the range of experiences and activities that the childminder provides. The childminder demonstrates a good capacity for improvement through identifying future training possibilities and the need to develop her systems of observation and assessment.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- use assessment and observations to plan the next steps in a child's development
- ensure that children's arrival and departure times are recorded.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

Children have their welfare needs and individual routines met well because the childminder works in partnership with parents and carers. Daily discussions support the flow of information, and ensure that parents are informed about their children's time with the childminder. The childminder's home is well organised to help children become increasingly independent. Flexible routines encompass children's individual needs and provide a varied range of activities. Written records, policies and procedures are used effectively to promote the welfare of children. Children are protected from potential harm and danger as the childminder is confident in her knowledge and has attended safeguarding training which is

regularly updated. Suitable safety equipment is fitted around her home, which is risk assessed in line with Early Years Foundation Stage requirements.

The childminder has started to self-evaluate her practice and is clear about the areas which can be built upon. She has identified areas for improvement, and is keen to access further training to support her practice. The childminder is proactive in her local area, she works well with other childminders to continue to develop her knowledge and access support.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children make good progress in their learning and development supported by the childminder, who provides a range of experiences and activities that are appropriate to each child's age and stage of development. Space is organised well to enable children to readily access a variety of toys and activities. Children enjoy having space to spread out as they play with puzzles, dolls, play dough and books. The childminder interacts well with the children and has formed strong relationships with them, she knows each child well and plans experiences that are motivating and in line with their interests. These are recorded in 'learning journeys' for each child and made available for parents to share. Observations are illustrated with photographs, however, children's learning priorities are not identified.

Children are very confident and readily request resources of their choice. They ask for music, enjoying dancing to a DVD and regularly request to watch the weather forecasts with the childminder; observing the British Isles and identifying parts of the country where they live.

The childminder has provided a reassuring and stimulating environment which is clean and homely. Daily checks ensure that children are safe and the premises are secure. A register of the children is generally maintained, however, this is not always kept up to date which could compromise children's safety. Children bring packed lunches and snacks which are healthy and nutritious. Regular walks to the local school ensure they are out every day in the fresh air and during warmer weather they play in the well-maintained, secure garden.

The children behave very well, they are kind and thoughtful considering one another and fetching equipment they think other children would like. They are gently reminded to tidy away toys and help the childminder who uses a flexible but consistent approach to establish her house rules. The childminder is strongly committed to the principles of equality and diversity and values each child as an individual. Consequently, children treat one another with respect ensuring that all children and families feel included safe and valued.

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
---	-----

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.