

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	251373
Inspection date	10/03/2009
Inspector	Glenda Kathleen Field
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 since 1999. She lives with her husband and three children aged 17, 14 and 12 in Beccles, Suffolk. There is level access to the provision. The ground floor of the property only is used for childminding, this consists of the lounge, kitchen and dining area, conservatory and toilet facilities. There is a secure garden for outside play. No household pets are kept.

The childminder may care for a maximum of six children aged under eight years at any one time. There are currently twelve children on roll of whom four are within the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). The childminder is also registered on the compulsory part of the Childcare Register and the Voluntary Childcare Register. She takes children for visits to toddler groups, Brampton Playbarn, the local library and the park.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is good. Children's learning and development is successfully promoted by the enthusiastic and caring childminder who provides them with plenty of worthwhile activities and experiences. An extremely effective partnership with parents ensures the childminder and families work together so that children's needs are effectively met and everyone attending the setting is welcomed and included. The childminder shows a commitment to improving her provision as she evaluates different aspects of her childminding, regularly encourages feedback from parents and older children, and keeps up-to-date through attending training and good practice sessions.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- make ongoing observational assessments of each child's achievements and interests and use these to provide relevant and motivating learning experiences that meet each child's needs.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

Children are settled and well cared for because the childminder ensures sessions run smoothly, with a good balance of child-initiated and well thought out adult-led activities. Care routines are effectively incorporated to ensure children are well nourished, comfortable and rested in accordance with their needs. Effective health and hygiene procedures ensure children have prompt appropriate treatment if they are unwell, have an accident or need medication and parents are kept well informed about any matters affecting their child's well-being.

The childminder has a very good partnership with parents. From the outset,

parents are well informed about how she operates. This includes being given information covering activities, routines and examples of written policies. Displays include the childminder's certificate of registration, the Ofsted parents' poster and information about the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). The childminder explains to parents her role to safeguard children, her complaints procedure and information about her suitability and training. Parents are reassured and well informed about their child's achievements, activities and routines through discussions, backed by a helpful individual daily diary record.

Documentation is well organised. Parents' wishes are expressed in agreements and consents and the childminder seeks all required information about children. As a result, she is well informed about each child's medical history, any health or dietary requirements and their specific contact and collection arrangements. Accident and medication records are fully completed and signed by parents. A risk assessment has been conducted recently and a required record has been maintained of those aspects she has identified as needing to be regularly checked. Specific outings have also been risk assessed. Children are kept safe because they are effectively supervised and the childminder ensures her home is secure and makes good use of safety equipment to minimise hazards. Children also behave in ways that are safe for themselves and others, developing an appropriate understanding of dangers. For example, the childminder effectively fosters their awareness of different safety matters as they travel by car or whilst out walking.

Children benefit from the childminder's monitoring of her provision. In particular, she regularly encourages parents' feedback as part of written diary exchanges. She has completed a self-evaluation involving parents and children in this process. Some areas for development have been identified such as improving her systems for reviewing children's learning and development, increasing outdoor play resources for young children, for example, purchasing climbing equipment and from suggestions made by older children she intends to introduce 'bug hunting' activities. She keeps up-to-date by attending training and good practice sessions, for example, making sure she maintains a current paediatric first aid qualification. Recommendations from the last inspection have been adequately addressed. Children's records are now reviewed regularly, accident and medication records are maintained in a confidential manner and children are involved with practise evacuations, which helps to develop their understanding of what to do in an emergency.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children make good progress towards the early learning goals and in all aspects of their development. They enjoy learning and are eager participants in the range of experiences provided by the childminder. These include regularly taking part in rewarding art, craft and other toddler activities at different venues. In her home they settle well and enjoy learning in the inviting play area where they can help themselves to books and many of the interesting resources. Their physical skills and appreciation of the value of exercise is fostered whilst playing outside in the spacious garden.

Children develop at their pace because the childminder adeptly supports each child. Information supplied by parents and her own initial observations help her to identify each child's starting points. An appropriate system is in place, although, in its early stages, for tracking children's progress but the assessment of children's skills and planning of activities are not yet effectively linked to ensure each child receives further challenging learning experiences. However, in her practice the childminder capably supports each child. Their play and learning is enriched by her involvement. She promotes children's interest and adeptly consolidates and extends their understanding and skills. For example, children are confident articulate speakers with an extensive vocabulary because the childminder encourages their conversations, introduces and consolidates new words which they then use reliably in appropriate contexts. Children love books, happily choosing from an enjoyable selection. The childminder encourages children's involvement at story time by using props such as animal figures and a roadway play-mat for the story of the 'Three Little Pigs'.

Children find out how things work, for example, as they use programmable toys. They investigate different textures and changes as they explore sand, water, dough and paint. Their critical thinking is consistently encouraged by the childminder's questions and the opportunities she creates for their decision making and practical problem solving.

Children are confident and feel valued because the childminder reflects their interests and praises their achievements. They behave well, join in, make friends and respond to the childminder's realistic expectations. She encourages children's choices, their sharing and turn taking. Children learn respect for aspects of diversity through their play and communications. Children also have a sound awareness of the importance of a healthy lifestyle, fostered during regular physical play, at meal times and during toileting and hand washing 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?	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?	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.