

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY221047
Inspection date	25/02/2009
Inspector	Claire Jenner
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 2002. She lives with her husband and adult son in Leicester. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house and first floor bedroom is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed rear garden for outside play. There is level access to the childminder's home. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. She attends the local parent/toddler group and takes children to the local library and park. The childminder has a number of pets including a dog, cat, owl and chickens.

The childminder is registered to care for four children at any one time. There are currently four children on roll, three of whom are within the early years age range. The childminder is an accredited member of the Leicestershire Childminding Network although currently she does not have any children in receipt of funded nursery education. The childminder supports children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and children whose home language is not English. The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and on both the voluntary and compulsory parts of the Childcare Register.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is good. Children are well supported by the childminder and they make good progress in their learning and development. Children are treated as individuals and the childminder works closely with parents to ensure relevant information is shared. Policies and procedures are generally well organised to support children's care and welfare. The childminder is committed to her work and to ongoing improvement through the regular use of self-evaluation to monitor 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 further systems to make observations and assessments and use these to identify learning priorities and plan relevant learning experiences for each child
- review systems to ensure parents are provided with all the required information.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder shows a commitment to providing good quality care and learning experiences for children. She keeps up to date with current and changing childcare practice through frequent attendance at training events, workshops and meetings. A professional development record helps her to keep track of what she has already undertaken and plans to do next. Recommendations made at previous inspections

have been addressed and incorporated into her current good practice.

Relationships with parents are good. She provides them with clear verbal and written feedback at the end of each day which includes information on their child's daily routine and activities undertaken. The childminder also shares her policies and procedures with them. For example, the complaints procedure, safeguarding children and equal opportunities policy. However, some lack necessary detail and are not always clearly presented.

All children's welfare, care and safety are promoted effectively because the childminder has taken positive steps to minimise any potential hazards to children. For example, comprehensive risk assessments which are reviewed regularly are carried out on the premises and resources. She has a good understanding of safeguarding children in relation to reporting and recording concerns and has attended a workshop to update her professional skills. Secure procedures provide reassurance to parents that the childminder and household members are suitable to have contact with children.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children learn effectively within the setting because the childminder has a good understanding of child development and has developed warm and caring relationships with them. Children therefore, feel settled at her home and feel a good sense of belonging. The childminder provides a balance of activities which are linked to children's interests which she adapts so that all children can participate and achieve. The childminder has made a positive start in formally observing the children to identify what they know and can do. However, these are not yet being used to their full potential to enable the childminder to consistently identify children's next steps and to plan effectively.

The childminder interacts well with the children and they enjoy the time they spend with her. Children are confident and move freely around the identified play areas accessing a broad range of appropriate toys and resources. For example, a young child chooses to play with the toy telephone and chatters away happily whilst another spends time dressing and undressing the dolls. Children play well together and work as a team to cut and mould a large nappy to fit onto a small doll. The childminder supports them in their task through discussion and providing appropriate tools and equipment. Children enjoy taking part in art and craft activities and are confident to ask the childminder for specific activities during free play. Children's care needs are well supported as quiet space is provided for children to sleep and rest, while others can continue to play. The accessible ground floor toilet ensures that children's personal independence is fostered, whilst the childminder is still close at hand to offer support if necessary.

Children behave well because they feel secure and valued. The childminder acts as a good role model to children, treating them with respect and consideration. They learn the consequences of their actions and are encouraged through consistent management to be kind to one another. There is a strong emphasis on celebrating children's achievements and positive behaviour through praise and

encouragement. As a result, children gain confidence and self-esteem.

Children learn how to keep themselves safe as the childminder reminds them of safety rules within the home. They begin to understand the importance of good personal hygiene through everyday routines. Such as washing hands after visiting the toilet or after being in contact with pets. The childminder works closely with parents to ensure children's individual health and dietary needs are met and she ensures she can respond appropriately if children are ill or have an accident.

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.