

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	313329
Inspection date	18/03/2009
Inspector	Linda Phillips

Type of setting	Childminder
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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 registered in 1992. She lives with her partner and two adult daughters to the east of Kingston upon Hull and has a named assistant who works with her. The whole of the accessible ground floor of the property is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed rear garden for outside play. The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register, the compulsory part of the Childcare Register and the voluntary part of the Childcare Register.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children under eight years of age including three in the early years age group at any one time. Currently there are 11 children on roll between the ages of birth to eight years, the majority of whom attend for flexible sessions. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children.

She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall, the quality of the provision is good. Children are cared for within a well organised and welcoming environment where all are included. They enjoy an interesting, broad range of play activities which are pre-planned to ensure there are good opportunities to learn in line with their individual interests and abilities.

The childminder has a very good relationship with parents and through this she provides an individual service where she recognises the uniqueness of all children. Aspects of record keeping are well maintained with only a slight detail omitted. As part of the commitment to continuous improvement, the childminder has started to conduct a self evaluation exercise which is enabling her to identify specific areas for future development.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- ensure when non-prescription medication e.g. for pain and fever relief or teething gel is administered, prior written consent of the parent is sought for all children.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

Children are safeguarded from harm as those in regular contact with them have been, or are, in the process of being suitably vetted. The childminder has attended Safeguarding Children training, and has a clear understanding of reporting procedures. Written risk assessments are carried out which enhances the welfare, health and safety of the children. Almost all required written records are in place

and are very well maintained, although prior parental consent for the administering of non-prescription medication is being updated as the childminder has recently obtained a new book for this purpose. An extensive range of well-presented written policies and procedures are in place and are shared with parents.

The childminder is fully committed in her partnership with parents and other providers. This is enhanced by sharing detailed information about the children on a daily basis both verbally and in writing, and includes accounts of varied activities and opportunities undertaken by them. The childminder continues to encourage parents to complete annual questionnaires to seek new ideas, suggestions and general comments regarding care she provides.

The childminder welcomes all children into her setting. In addition to offering a wide range of play and learning opportunities within the home children enjoy using additional services in the local area, for example, libraries and children's centres, and further afield, they visit museums and the sea side. Children are learning about diversity and the wider world through good quality books and through addressing other festivals and celebrations including, for example, they have been excitedly making Mothers' day cards. Children clearly enjoy having free access to a wide range of toys, resources and play materials which are of good quality and quantity, and independently self select play items. Children are progressing very well in their learning and development. The childminder maintains individual records on children's achievements which enables her to identify their uniqueness and interests, and help her to plan for the children's progression.

The childminder is self-evaluating her services and practices. This is enabling her to identify areas for continuous improvements, for example, she has given thought to the introduction of questionnaires for children to seek their views and is looking into how she can enhance records of children's development in line with the Early Years Foundation Stage. She has also made improvements since her last inspection as she has increased her understanding of safeguarding issues by attending training. She further safeguards children by ensuring people who are in regular contact are suitable vetted, and keeps parents fully informed about the circumstances of when assistants are employed and their roles and responsibilities.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children are learning the importance of healthy lifestyles. They have daily opportunities to play in the garden and are appropriately dressed for the weather, for example, they know fastening their coats correctly prevents the wind chilling them, and easily access umbrellas hanging in the kitchen when playing in the rain and snow. They are actively encouraged to eat healthily and although parents supply packed lunches, children are gently prompted to eat savoury items first, for example, sandwiches, before any confectionary items. Children learn good social skills at mealtimes as they all sit together at the table with even the youngest children copying older ones with good manners. As part of encouraging children with healthy lifestyles they regularly play a game reciting different parts of the body, for example, teeth, muscles and heart, and confidently speak of the functions they play in our bodies.

Children are learning about personal safety, for example, they are involved with fire evacuation practices and ask the childminder for additional practices when they have not been involved for a short while. Written records are well maintained of these. Children behave extremely well and are clearly happy and settled. They are safeguarded from harm as they are closely supervised at all times. They are becoming familiar with their own personal hygiene practices regarding hand and face washing, and older children use the ground floor bathroom independently with confidence.

The childminder has introduced good systems for recording children's learning and development in line with the Early Years Foundation Stage. She addresses the different areas of learning through the planning of activities and opportunities and uses stickers on her records identifying which area of learning activities cover. Children's future economic well-being is enhanced and promoted as they have access to a range of programmable toys, age appropriate computer packages and numeracy opportunities through playing counting games and singing songs. The childminder takes many photographs of children in their play and learning, for example, seasonal activities and those relating to other festivals and celebrations. In this way they are gradually introduced to diversity and the wider world. The childminder recognises the uniqueness of children, for example, children are enrolled at a local library and receive certificates for participating in a wide range of activities which they clearly enjoy and talk about. Children have many additional opportunities away from the home for new experiences as they go out each day. Children are progressing very well in their learning and development through the childminder being organised in offering a balance of both child and adult led activities.

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.	3

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?	3
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?	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

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

Ofsted received concerns in relation to welfare requirement: suitable people, specifically in relation to the use of assistants and welfare requirement: safeguarding and promoting children's welfare, specifically in relation to promoting the good health of children. An Ofsted inspector visited the provider on 10 October 2008 to investigate these concerns. As a result of this visit, an action was raised in relation to welfare requirement: suitable person, specifically in relation to notifying Ofsted of significant events. This action was satisfactorily met by the provider and, at the time that this investigation was concluded, Ofsted were satisfied that the provider remained 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.