

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	317773
Inspection date	19/05/2009
Inspector	Carolyn Gifford
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 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 1986. She lives with her husband in Hexthorpe, Doncaster. The whole of the ground floor is available for childminding, incorporating a lounge, dining room, kitchen, hallway and playroom. The premises are accessible via a level path and one-step to the front door. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The family has a pet cat. Local schools, play areas and shops are within walking distance.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children under eight years old at any one time. There are currently seven children on roll, five of whom are in the early years age group. Children attend for varying days and times.

The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register, compulsory part of the Childcare Register and voluntary part of the Childcare Register. She is a member of the National Childminding Association and the Pre-school Playgroup Association. The childminder liaises well with other providers of the Early Years Foundation Stage framework (EYFS).

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall, the quality of the provision is satisfactory. Although the childminder gives priority to children's safety, there are no formal risk assessments in place, meaning she does not meet all of the requirements of the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. The childminder has taken some action to address recommendations made at the last inspection and now has a fire blanket secured to the wall in the kitchen, which promotes children's safety.

Whilst there are still no systems in place to record complaints, the childminder does demonstrate a good understanding of this area of her work. She has a sufficient knowledge of the EYFS and offers a fully inclusive childcare service. She acknowledges the need to develop systems for observations and assessments of individual children. Overall, satisfactory monitoring of the provision leads to clear identification of strengths and areas for improvement.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- make systematic observations and assessments of each child and match these observations to the expectations of the early learning goals
- devise and implement a system for recording concerns, compliments and complaints.

To fully meet the specific requirements of the EYFS, the registered person must:

- conduct a risk assessment of the premises used for childminding and for each type of outing, clearly stating when it was carried out, the date of review and any action taken following a review or incident (Suitable premises, environment and equipment) (also applies to the compulsory part and the voluntary part of the Childcare Register).

09/06/2009

The leadership and management of the early years provision

Space and resources are organised well and the childminder follows individual children's routines to promote their welfare and development. She has experience of caring for children who have learning difficulties or disabilities and ensures that activities are adapted so that all children can participate. The childminder has a good knowledge and understanding of her role and responsibilities with regard to safeguarding children and knows the procedure to follow if she has concerns about children in her care. She helps children learn to keep themselves safe in everyday situations by, for example, talking to them about how to cross roads safely when on routine outings. However, there is no written risk assessment for each type of outing or for all of the areas available at the premises for childminding, which is a breach of requirements.

The childminder has relevant policies and procedures that are readily available for parents to see and for inspection. However, she does not have a system in place to record concerns, compliments or complaints, which was also a recommendation at the last inspection. Parents are provided with helpful information about the setting and are invited to contribute what they know about their child's interests and needs at the admission stage. Daily communication ensures that parents are kept up to date and informed about their children's experiences at the childminder's home. The childminder has established positive links with other providers of the EYFS. She learns from the activities they provide and talks to staff about how children are progressing. Her satisfactory monitoring of the provision leads to the identification of strengths and areas for improvement, which has a positive impact on its overall quality and the outcomes for children.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children are cared for in a welcoming, safe and secure environment. The childminder has a good knowledge of how young children learn and organises the setting to ensure that children can make choices about their play. All equipment and toys are readily accessible in a dedicated playroom the children confidently use. The childminder is beginning to make some observations and to identify the next steps in individual children's learning and development. However, this is still in its infancy and the childminder acknowledges the need to progress this area of her work further and to ensure it is tailored to children's individual needs.

There is a sufficiently good balance between adult-led and child-initiated activities.

The childminder helps children to learn new skills and offers appropriate support and guidance to build on their natural curiosity as learners. For example, during a construction activity, the childminder extends children's knowledge and understanding by asking open questions about the colour and shape of the bricks. Children respond with enthusiasm and enjoy sorting the bricks into different colours and shapes.

The childminder promotes children's health well and offers healthy food choices to children, effectively contributing to children developing a healthy lifestyle. She meets their dietary needs successfully as she discusses with parents, at the admission stage, children's likes and dislikes. There is daily opportunity for outdoor play and the childminder talks to the children about the importance of fresh air and exercise. Children develop social skills as they have regular opportunity to mix with other children and adults as they visit parks, play areas and pre-school groups. Behaviour is good and the childminder's effective use of praise and encouragement helps children to develop a positive self-esteem and to learn right from wrong in a caring and supportive environment.

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?	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?	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?	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?	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?	2
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:

Not Met (with actions)

The provider confirms that the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register are:

Not Met (with actions)

The registered provider does not meet the requirements of the compulsory and or voluntary part/s of the Childcare Register.

To comply with the requirements of the compulsory part of the Childcare Register, the registered person must take the following action/s by the specified date:

- take action as specified in the early years section of the report (CR5.4). 09/06/2009

To comply with the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register, the registered person must take the following action/s by the specified date:

- take action as specified above in the early years section of the report (CR5.4). 09/06/2009