

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY317366
Inspection date	11/11/2009
Inspector	Lesley Gadd
Type of setting	Childminder

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, work-based learning and skills training, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It rates council children's services, and inspects services for looked after children, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 08456 404040, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may copy all or parts of this document for non-commercial educational purposes, as long as you give details of the source and date of publication and do not alter the information in any way.

Royal Exchange Buildings
St Ann's Square
Manchester
M2 7LA

T: 08456 404040
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.ofsted.gov.uk

© Crown copyright 2009

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.

Please see our website for more information about each childcare provider. We publish inspection reports, conditions of registration and details of complaints we receive where we or the provider take action to meet the requirements of registration.

Description of the childminding

The childminder was registered in 2006. She lives with her husband and three children aged six, eight and 10 years in the town of Wymondham, in Norfolk. Most of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden area for outside play. The family have no pets.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children under eight years at any one time; not more than three may be in the early years age group. She is currently minding four children in this age group. She also offers care to children aged over five years. This provision is registered by Ofsted on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. The childminder takes and collects children from local schools and pre-schools.

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is good.

Children are cared for in a safe, welcoming environment and are happy. The childminder provides effectively for children in their development and they make good progress in their learning. Working closely with parents and working relationships with other settings ensures children's individual needs are met well. Improvements have been made since the last inspection and the childminder has begun to self-evaluate her provision. The approach towards supporting children's health is excellent and a good range of documentation is in place to reassure parents about their children's welfare.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- make further use of self-evaluation tools to identify where additional improvements can be made for the benefit of the children.

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

Children's safety is given good consideration. Children are well-supervised whilst they play and written risk assessments support the childminder in ensuring that the home and garden are safe. Resources are well-organised, clean and accessible to the children, promoting their independence as they self-select toys for play. The childminder supports children positively in developing their own understanding about safety to prepare them for future independence. They quote the safety rules and know how to cross the road safely with the childminder when going to or returning from daily outings. Children's welfare is effectively safeguarded. Household members are vetted and older children are beginning to be taught about stranger danger. The childminder has clear child protection policies, which

are shared with parents, and procedures held demonstrate that children's welfare would be safeguarded if the childminder had concerns that children were being ill-treated.

Children's welfare, learning and development are promoted well as the childminder has a good range of experience and has attended relevant childcare training to update her knowledge about the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). The childminder is beginning to recognise her own strengths and weaknesses although self-evaluation systems are not yet entirely secure. Further improvements have been made since the last inspection to ensure that children's health is robustly supported. The childminder has a positive approach to inclusion and children of all ages, abilities and gender take part in the full range of activities. The childminder knows the children well and would quickly be able to pick up if any needed additional support and then help the parents to access appropriate services to ensure any child was not disadvantaged by any special need and/or disability.

The childminder has established good partnerships with parents and other facilities the children attend to ensure continuity of care and learning. Parents are provided with good quality information about the provision and are kept informed about their children's progress through the good two-way flow of information between them and the childminder. Parents state that the care their children receive is 'very good' and that the childminder is 'very flexible' and accommodating of parents 'requests regarding their children's care'. This helps to support children's sense of security as routines regarding sleeping and feeding are followed from home. With parents permission, the childminder ensures the pre-schools are given a detailed range of written information about children's care requirements to ensure their individual needs are effectively met.

The quality and standards of the early years provision and outcomes for children

Children are motivated to learn as they enjoy a stimulating environment and have many opportunities to make progress in all areas of learning and development. The childminder supports children's play competently and is skilled in engaging with younger babies, providing a warm, caring environment where they are secure. Good quality assessment and planning, with learning introduced into everyday situations, ensures that every child enjoys practical learning experiences. A good balance of adult-led and child-initiated activities are offered through indoor and outdoor play. Babies vocalise, exploring language and sound well. The childminder is responsive to the babies sounds and they giggle in delight, sharing the companionship of making noises whilst the baby explores the full range of sounds from their vocal chords. The free floor space provides good opportunities for the babies to explore their physical capabilities in a safe arena. They roll, stretch, push and reach, being pleased with their recent success at being able to push themselves into a sitting position from lying on the floor. The childminder is quick to clap hands and praise the babies for their achievements, which promotes their self-esteem.

Children are actively encouraged to lead a healthy lifestyle. They enjoy daily walks

in the fresh air to exercise their lungs and are developing their large muscle tone as they swing, climb and dig in the garden. A nutritious diet, including home grown produce, helps to support children's growth, develops their understanding about food origins and they know the good foods that help the body get the fuel it needs for activities. Information about children's medical or dietary needs are discussed fully with parents before children attend to ensure any requirements are met. Informal opportunities are provided for children to develop their basic skills. They count the number of cereal bits on their plate, developing their number skills and make use of the programmable toys which helps to foster their confidence in the use of technology.

Children's creativity is actively encouraged as they enjoy a wide range of art and craft activities. They make their own musical instruments from a range of junk materials, showing a flair for design. The childminder provides excellent opportunities for the children to develop their knowledge about differences to promote future tolerance and understanding about others. They mark a wide range of religious festivals throughout the year for example, by building dens outside with sticks to mark the Jewish festival of 'Sukkot', and they play in an environment rich in it's representations of wider society. Children are caring and considerate towards younger children and friends and they behave well. Children know what is expected of them and follow the childminder's good example. They are given praise and encouragement which helps them to feel good about themselves and the children thoroughly enjoy themselves in this child-friendly 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

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

How well does the setting meet the needs of the children in the Early Years Foundation Stage?	2
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement	2

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

How effectively is the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?	2
The effectiveness of leadership and management in embedding ambition and driving improvement	2
The effectiveness with which the setting deploys resources	2
The effectiveness with which the setting promotes equality and diversity	1
The effectiveness of safeguarding	2
The effectiveness of the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement	2
The effectiveness of partnerships	2
The effectiveness of the setting's engagement with parents and carers	2

The quality of the provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage

The quality of the provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage	2
--	---

Outcomes for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage

Outcomes for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage	2
The extent to which children achieve and enjoy their learning	2
The extent to which children feel safe	2
The extent to which children adopt healthy lifestyles	1
The extent to which children make a positive contribution	1
The extent to which children develop skills for the future	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
--	-----