

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY362758
Inspection date	14/01/2010
Inspector	Kathryn Margaret Clayton
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 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 2008. She lives with her two daughters aged eight years and 14 months in Cleethorpes, near Grimsby in North East Lincolnshire. She is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time. The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. There are currently three children on roll, all of whom are in the early years age range. The ground floor only is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden for outdoor play. The childminder takes children to and from school, to the local library, beach and play park. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is satisfactory.

The childminder provides a caring, inclusive service where individual children's needs are met. Children progress steadily, although there are some weaknesses in the learning programme and some aspects of children's welfare are not met. The childminder, for the most part, promotes children's well-being. She makes close relationships with parents where information is readily shared. She evaluates her childminding service taking into account the views of parents and children whenever possible. Since registration the childminder has made some improvements to her setting.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- take the necessary steps to safeguard and promote the welfare of children by ensuring the heat source within the home is safe and can be used when children are present (Safeguarding and promoting children's welfare) (this also applies to both parts of the Childcare Register).
- 28/01/2010

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

- improve knowledge and understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage, provide children with a wide range of experiences across all aspects within the areas of learning and assess children's progress linked to their stage of development
- develop further outdoor play opportunities in the winter months.

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder has a clear understanding of her responsibility to recognise the signs and symptoms of abuse that may cause her concern. She has undertaken recent training in this area, has a suitable safeguarding children policy and knows who to contact in the event of any concerns. All areas of the home and outings are risk assessed and checked on a daily basis. Safety measures in place include two stair gates on the ground floor and a safety protector on the lounge door. However, the childminder fails to fully promote children's welfare and at times children are not comfortable in the setting because, although there are heaters and a fire within the home, these are too hot to be put on when the children are present because none of them are guarded.

The childminder has a positive attitude towards ongoing improvement and has worked hard to evaluate the childminding provision. She considers the views of parents and children making sure they are satisfied with all aspects of the setting. She has undertaken training in food safety and safeguarding and holds a current first aid certificate. Children choose from a suitable range of resources which are regularly inspected for safety and cleanliness. Children particularly enjoy playing with good quality puzzles and games. The childminder works directly with the children at all times and gives them good one-to-one attention. The childminder works closely with parents to help children progress in different areas. Children are treated with equal regard and given activities that suit their stage of development. They have access to books that depict positive images of diversity.

Parents are very happy and complimentary about the childminding service. Information is shared in a number of ways including through daily discussions, seeing children's development details and children's work displayed on the walls. Useful policy documents are available to parents and the childminder works with parents to help children progress. She seeks the views of parents about how she can improve her service. The childminder talks to the school that the children she is caring for attend and is aware of what is happening in the school on a day-to-day basis.

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

Children are happy, often excited and very interested in play at the childminder's home. The childminder provides a suitable range of activities that help children make steady progress, however, there are some weaknesses in her knowledge of the Early Years Foundation Stage, and not all aspects within the programme are offered to children over a period of time. The childminder assesses children's progress, but the assessments are not always linked to their stage of development, making it difficult to plan for their next steps in learning.

Children are very verbal and confident, they communicate well and often count as they play. For example, they count the number of items they have made with play

dough up to eight and young children know when they have made a circle shape. The childminder supports children all the time and constantly talks through what they are doing and so promotes their language development. Older children use tools and cutters skilfully and show good vocabulary, speak clearly, ask questions and happily engage in play.

Children learn suitable hygiene routines, they wash their hands before eating a snack, and there is a step, liquid soap and towels available for them to use. Food given to children is healthy and nutritious and includes snacks of fruit and carrot sticks. Children enjoy some level of activity indoors as they dance. They also go on walks and outings where they can use a climbing frame, for example. The home is bright and clean with enough space in the lounge and hallway and direct access to a safe garden, although this is not often used by children during winter months so there are days when they are not very active.

Children use a good range of interactive toys that they turn on and off with flashing lights that help to promote their technology skills for the future. Creative experiences include painting and gluing, making cards and other items. Generally children behave well because the childminder is calm and positive and talks to them about appropriate behaviour. For example, children learn to share toys. Children make choices as they play and the childminder makes sure the toys they choose are appropriate to their stage of development. For example, a young child successfully completes a simple puzzle and an older child a more complicated letter matching game.

All of the required documentation needed to promote the welfare of the children attending is in place. The childminder promotes children's safety satisfactorily as she makes sure children are closely supervised within the home and reminds them about things, such as not running on the slippery floor.

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?	3
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement	3

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

How effectively is the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?	3
The effectiveness of leadership and management in embedding ambition and driving improvement	3
The effectiveness with which the setting deploys resources	3
The effectiveness with which the setting promotes equality and diversity	3
The effectiveness of safeguarding	4
The effectiveness of the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement	3
The effectiveness of partnerships	3
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	3
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Outcomes for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage

Outcomes for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage	3
The extent to which children achieve and enjoy their learning	3
The extent to which children feel safe	4
The extent to which children adopt healthy lifestyles	3
The extent to which children make a positive contribution	3
The extent to which children develop skills for the future	3

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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:

- ensure the premises and equipment, specifically the heating within the home is safe and suitable for childcare (Suitability of Premises and Equipment). 28/01/2010

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 in the compulsory part of the Childcare Register (Suitability of Premises and Equipment). 28/01/2010