

Inspection report for early years provision

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Inspection date	26/02/2010
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 has been registered since 1992. She is registered to look after six children under the age of eight years. She lives on a busy main road in a residential area, close to the outskirts of Grimsby. The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and both parts of the Childcare Register, there is currently one child on roll in the early years age range. Minded children have access to the dining room, the kitchen and toilet facilities. The childminder keeps two dogs, two birds and two rabbits. There is a large safely enclosed garden, although currently this is not being used. The childminder 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 children are cared for by a childminder who meets their individual needs. Even though there are some weaknesses in the educational provision, children progress steadily in their development and learning. All aspects of the children's welfare are suitably promoted and the childminder has a clear understanding of how to safeguard children. The childminder understands the need to develop close partnerships with other providers that children attend, and develops relationships with parents where information can be shared. The childminder does not effectively evaluate her provision. She has completed the recommendations raised at the last inspection and shows a suitable capacity to improve.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- develop further the range of media and materials to enable children to explore creatively
- gain further understanding of reflective practice in order to confidently identify aspects of the service that are done well and those aspects that might be improved, so as to promote good outcomes for children
- develop further knowledge and understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage and ensure coverage of all of the aspects within the areas of learning over a period of time
- improve children's opportunities for outdoor play by making the garden safe to use
- improve the opportunities for children to explore mark-making.

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder has a suitable range of policies and procedures that support her service, including a safeguarding children policy. The childminder understands the

signs and symptoms that may cause her concern and has contact numbers readily available to use should she have any concerns about a child's welfare. Parents are made aware of how to make a complaint should they wish to. The childminder completes a suitable risk assessment of the areas of the home that children use. She is keen to improve her service and since the last inspection has completed training in the Early Years Foundation Stage. However, the evaluation of her provision is in the very early stages of development and is not yet effective in improving the outcomes for children.

The childminder finds out about children's individual needs and starting points by completing a home visit. She then assesses the children through observations over their first few weeks of attendance. Children play with a suitable range of toys and play materials, for example, there are a range of books and puzzles with positive images of disability and diversity. The opportunities for children to make marks or express themselves creatively through using a wide range of media and materials are limited. Currently the outdoor area is not safe to use and therefore this limits opportunities for outdoor play.

The childminder works with the local authority to improve her service. She is aware of the need to work closely with other settings that children attend to enable them to help the children progress. Appropriate information is shared with parents regarding children's routines and activities undertaken. Information is shared mainly through discussion, but parents can also read details of their child's progress through written observations. The childminder talks to parents about all aspects of care and makes sure they are kept well informed.

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

The childminder provides a suitable range of experiences for the children in her care. She completes observations of children as they play and identifies the next steps in their learning. The childminder is not fully confident about how to deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage and does not use a system to ensure all aspects within the areas of learning are covered over a period of time.

The children are confident and settled in the care of the childminder. She is kind, caring and positive in her responses to children. This helps children to behave well. Although the children cannot access the garden they go to the park once a week and for swimming sessions when they are physically active. The childminder provides healthy home-made meals, such as shepherd's pie with fresh vegetables and fruit or yoghurts. She makes sure young children are regularly offered a drink. Children's health is promoted by suitable hygiene routines. The childminder uses gloves and wipes for nappy changes, these are disposed of afterwards and the childminder uses antibacterial gel on her own hands. She maintains a valid first aid certificate.

The childminder promotes the children's early awareness of numbers through singing number rhymes and songs such as 'five little ducks'. With support young children successfully complete shape puzzles and shape sorters. The children's

language development is promoted in a number of ways, but particularly through sharing books and stories. Children show an interest in books and can handle them correctly from a young age. The childminder provides children with a suitable range of musical instruments for them to express themselves through music.

The children make choices as they play in the lounge and have access to a suitable range of resources. They can play with what they are interested in, for example cars and vehicles. When going to the park the children show an interest in the wildlife and look closely at mini-beasts. The childminder makes sure children learn about aspects of safety from an early age. For example, when on car journeys the childminder talks about the importance of being safely strapped in a car seat. Indoors the childminder uses a fire guard and a stair gate, and has a clear evacuation procedure that has been practised with the children. The children play with some resources that help to develop their skills in using information and communication technology equipment.

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	3
The effectiveness of the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement	4
The effectiveness of partnerships	3
The effectiveness of the setting's engagement with parents and carers	3

The quality of the provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage

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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	3
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:	Met
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The provider confirms that the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register are:	Met
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