

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	221354
Inspection date	10/05/2011
Inspector	Sarah Measures
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).

Children only attend this setting before and/or after the school day and/or during the school holidays. The judgements in this report reflect the quality of early years provision offered to children during those periods.

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.

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Description of the childminding

The childminder registered in 1997. She lives with her husband and adult son in the village of Kislingbury, on the outskirts of Northampton. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding. A rear garden is used for outdoor play. The premises is accessed via a step to the front door and toilet and sleeping facilities are on the ground floor.

The childminder is registered by Ofsted on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and the voluntary parts of the Childcare Register to care for a maximum of six children under eight years at any one time. She is currently minding nine children, of whom three are under five, with various part time arrangements. The childminder walks to the local school to take and collect children and attends local parent and toddler groups. She has support from the Local Authority.

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is satisfactory.

There were no children present during this inspection. However available evidence suggests that satisfactory policies and procedures support children's welfare and their learning and development. The childminder reflects upon her practice in order to secure future improvement in the provision for children. She meets most requirements with regard to safeguarding the children. She provides interesting learning opportunities for the children, but does not make effective use of the Early Years Foundation Stage practice guidance to help her to plan for children's individual progress towards the early learning goals.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- keep an appropriate record of all accidents and first aid treatment (Safeguarding and promoting children's welfare). 11/05/2011

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

- develop the systems of observing and assessing the children by making effective use of the Early Years Foundation Stage practice guidance
- improve risk assessment to include all aspects of the provision that need to be checked on a regular basis
- update records kept to include clear information regarding children's ethnicity and any health or additional needs.

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

Discussions show that the childminder has a secure knowledge of the possible indicators of child abuse, and she keeps the Local Safeguarding Children Board guidance to hand to follow if she needs to refer any concerns. This helps to protect children from neglect and abuse. The childminder has a suitable policy that she shares with parents that gives information as to how to contact Ofsted as the regulator. This helps to promote a safe and transparent provision for parents and children. Discussions and documentation show that suitable procedures ensure that children are collected by appropriately identified persons. Discussions with the childminder and observations of her home show that she organises her home so that it is safe and secure and welcoming to children. Documentation shows that the childminder carries out risk assessments across the provision, however these do not fully demonstrate how children are kept safe as they do not cover all aspects of the provision that need to be checked on a regular basis. The childminder's practice does not meet with the welfare requirements with regard to keeping a record of accidents. This is because she does not protect herself and the children by recording all accidents, and when accidents are recorded they lack detail. Other documentation available show that requirements are met, however children's records do not detail key information regarding children's ethnicity, health and additional needs, religious or cultural considerations or home language. However, discussions show that the childminder is aware of this information through discussions with parents.

The childminder's policy is to share information regarding children's routines and progress verbally as parents arrive and collect children. Discussions show she has a good understanding of children's backgrounds and she is pleased with the relationships she has built up with parents. Discussions suggest that the childminder also has good relationships with staff at other settings that children attend that also deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework. This enables her to share relevant information regarding children's progress in order for all involved in children's care and education to work together to support individual children. Observations show that the childminder has a suitable variety of well maintained toys and equipment accessible to meet the needs of children of different ages and stages of development and to promote the independence of very young children. Toys and books include appropriate images of diversity in order for children to learn to value those that are different from themselves. Discussions with the childminder suggest she works with parents to assess and understand children's individual needs in order to value children and to help them to feel at home within the setting.

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

Discussions, photographs, records kept and observations of toys and activities available at the setting show children benefit from a suitable and balanced range of activities that cover all areas of learning. This evidence suggests that children

take part in a variety of activities in and out of the home and that they enjoy exploring their local area. For example, documentation shows that children go on walks looking for birds, flowers and lambs and that they go to feed the ducks. This helps them to learn about their community and the natural world. This evidence also shows children visit the local post office with the childminder and go to the supermarket to choose their own snack. The childminder's records indicate children are given appropriate choices about what they want to do and how they want to complete activities. This helps them to develop their independent thinking and ensure they feel involved and valued. Discussions and assessment records show that children's progress the early learning goals however is not effectively planned for. This is because the childminder does not make effective use of the practice guidance in order to show where children are at and to plan securely for the next steps in their development.

Discussions with the childminder suggest children develop good and considerate behaviour through her appropriate role modelling and purposeful discussions. The childminder is particularly proud of the way the older children in the setting help the younger children. The policy available to share with parents details how children's behaviour is managed in suitable and positive ways within the setting. Discussions and documentation suggest children develop suitable healthy lifestyles. Children are prevented from illness because the childminder does not accept children into the setting who may be infectious. Observations of equipment show that children take part in a variety of fun physical games. Equipment available is designed to meet a range of abilities and needs and enables all children to enjoy themselves and to achieve.

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

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the Early Years Foundation Stage	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	3
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:

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:

- keep a record of accidents which involve the children being cared for occurring on the premises where the childcare is provided (Records to be kept) (also applies to the voluntary part of the Childcare Register). 11/05/2011
- keep an implement a written statement of procedure to be followed for the protection of children, intended to safeguard the children from abuse and neglect (Arrangements for safeguarding children) (also applies to the compulsory part of the Childcare Register). 27/05/2011

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 within the compulsory part of the Childcare Register (Arrangements for safeguarding children and Records to be kept). 27/05/2011