

Inspection report for early years provision

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Inspection date	23/09/2011
Inspector	Diane Turner
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 1985. She lives with her husband in a semi-detached dormer bungalow in the Woodthorpe area of York. All of the ground floor of the childminder's home and the bathroom on the first floor is used for childminding purposes. There is an enclosed garden for outdoor play to the rear of the premises. The home is within walking distance of local schools, shops and parks. The family has two dogs, two cockatiels and a chinchilla.

The childminder holds a Level 3 qualification in childcare and is registered by Ofsted on the Early Years Register and the compulsory part of the Childcare Register to care for six children under eight years at any one time, three of whom may be within the early years age group. The childminder is also registered on the voluntary part of the Childcare Register. There are currently 11 children on roll, five of whom are within the early years age group. They all attend on a part-time basis.

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is good.

Children are cared for in a well-organised and welcoming environment where they are kept safe and secure. They are offered a broad range of activities both in the home and local community which sustain their interest and effectively promote their learning. All documentation is maintained to a good standard, however, the system for monitoring and assessing children's progress in their learning and development is not fully developed. Overall, good partnership working is promoted with parents, ensuring children's individual needs are met successfully. Effective systems are in place to monitor the quality of the service and to identify areas for future development which in turn promotes continuous improvement. Parents and children play an active part in the process which ensures an inclusive approach.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- provide more opportunities for parents to be involved in their children's learning
- develop further the system for monitoring and assessing children's progress in their learning and development.

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder's arrangements for safeguarding children are good. Through attending training, she is able to confidently identify the possible indicators of

abuse or neglect and she has a good amount of information to guide her, should she need to make a referral. The childminder gives high priority to ensuring children's safety and welfare, ensuring any potential risks in the home or on outings are effectively minimised through regular safety assessments. For example, monthly checks are carried out on the smoke detectors to ensure they remain in working order. All documentation is well-organised and maintained to a good standard which underpins the safe and efficient management of the setting. A good range of policies and procedures are in place and these clearly reflect the childminder's good understanding of the welfare requirements for the Early Years Foundation Stage.

The childminder provides children with a good range of toys and resources, which they are able to choose from freely. Good use is made of the toy library to enhance the range and the provision of child-height furniture to enable children to take part in activities, such as mark making comfortably. The childminder is driven to improving the outcomes for children. For example, she uses self-evaluation to identify her strengths and areas for development and regularly attends the local childminder group meetings when ideas for good practice are shared. Children and parents are regularly asked to complete questionnaires which enables them to express what it is they like about the service and any areas they would like to see improved.

The childminder gives good attention to promoting equality and diversity. For example, through discussion with parents she gathers information about children's individual needs and how these can be met and she knows the learning style of each child. For example, she confidently identifies those who learn more effectively outdoors and ensures their skills, such as mark making are promoted in the area. The childminder enables children to learn about the cultures and beliefs of others through activities, such as celebrating festivals from around the world at the local childminder group. The childminder has good links with providers of other settings the children also attend, such as the local school nursery, with the reciprocal sharing of information, promoting an effective shared approach to their care and learning.

The childminder engages very well with all parents. Information they receive is of a good quality and includes copies of all the policies and procedures. This ensures they know what to do if, for example, their child is ill or they have a concern about the care provided. Further information is displayed on a notice board in the kitchen, such as that relating to the childminder's business insurance and the emergency evacuation procedures. Parents are able to view the record of their children's progress but they are not asked to contribute to this to enable them to share their observation of the children's development at home. Written feedback from parents show they are very satisfied with the service they receive, stating for example, that they find the childminder very reliable and that she has a very caring nature.

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

The childminder supports the children's learning well and interacts with them in a skilful manner as they play. For example, as they use small world resources, such as toy cars, she encourages them to see how far they can make these travel and shows them how to use the ramp on the garage. As they use crayons, she encourages their recognition of colours and from a very young age she shows them how to write their name on their work. The childminder has devised a system to record the children's progress which includes photographic and written observations of them at play. However, she does not identify children's starting points or consistently record what they have achieved from the activity. This means she is not able to accurately measure their progress against the Practice Guidance for the Early Years Foundation Stage.

The childminder gives good attention to providing opportunities for the children to extend their learning in the local community. For example, they visit the local environment centre where they learn about recycling and conservation and they travel by bus when they are encouraged to purchase their own ticket. They make regular visits to a farm shop, attend the childminder activity group each week where they learn to socialise with others and they enjoy eating out in a cafe. The childminder is very successful in ensuring children learn to follow safe and responsible practices and in supporting them to behave well. For example, she teaches them road safety when out in the community and talks to them about 'Stranger danger'. She provides lots of praise to acknowledge children's efforts and this raises their self-esteem and encourages them to challenge their capabilities. For example, they hold onto the childminder's hand as they walk along the stepping stones and once they have gained their confidence, they are keen to attempt this unaided. They beam with delight when they are successful.

The childminder readily shares her love of the outdoors with the children and as a result, they relish being out in the garden and enjoying the fresh air. Children enjoy the added dimension the outdoor space brings to their play and become fully immersed as they dig in the sand and make marks with chalks. Children show increasing control of their bodies as they successfully use wheeled toys, including those to challenge their balancing skills, such as scooters. They make good attempts to count as they use the stepping stones and enjoy playing in the tent and ball pool. These activities are further enhanced through regular visits to the local park where they confidently use equipment, such as swings. They regularly take part in group activities linked to the outdoors, such as listening to stories in the woods and each year they take part in a sponsored toddle to raise money for charity. The childminder encourages the children to eat healthily by providing items, such as fresh fruit, for their snack and she ensures they follow good hygiene routines. For example, washing their hands before sitting down to eat.

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

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the Early Years Foundation Stage	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	2
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
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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	2
The extent to which children make a positive contribution	2
The extent to which children develop skills for the future	2

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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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