

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	259546
Inspection date	24/11/2011
Inspector	Jacqueline Mason
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 2000. She lives with her partner and two children aged 14 and 16 years, in a village near to the town of King's Lynn. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The family has a cat and a rabbit as pets and also two tanks containing tropical fish.

The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register to care for six children under eight years at any one time. She is also registered on both the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. The childminder is currently caring for four children before and after school. Of these, one is in the early years age group.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and has a relevant level 5 qualification.

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is good.

The childminder has knowledge and understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage and implements it well to promote inclusion and help children make rapid progress towards the early learning goals. She provides a warm and welcoming environment in which children thrive and promotes their health and hygiene to a good standard. Most requirements are met to keep children safe and the childminder has developed friendly and trusting relationships with parents. She is aware of the importance of working in partnership with others who provide care and learning for the children. The childminder is committed to continuous improvement and has positive plans for the future that are focussed on improving outcomes for children.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- request written parental permission to the seeking of any necessary emergency medical advice or treatment (safeguarding and promoting children's welfare) 25/11/2011

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

- use quality improvement (self-evaluation) processes as the basis of on-going internal review, in order to plan for continuous improvement.

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder demonstrates an excellent knowledge and understanding of child protection issues to help her recognise when children may be at risk of abuse. She is fully aware of the procedures that she should follow if she has a concern in order to safeguard children's welfare. Risk assessments are carried out to ensure that children are able to play safely indoors and outside. The process of recording risk assessments is currently being reviewed in order to ensure that all risks to children have been identified and action taken to limit hazards. A daily checklist is maintained of known hazards and all necessary steps are taken to limit risks.

All necessary policies and procedures are in place to ensure the efficient management of the setting. These are routinely shared with parents to keep them fully informed about the service that is provided and help them make knowledgeable decisions about their children's care. Successful relationships with parents have been established, resulting in effective partnerships to meet children's individual needs, promote inclusion and support continuity of care and learning. Most necessary documentation relating to children is maintained, although, the childminder has not obtained written parental permission to seek necessary emergency medical advice and treatment. This has the potential to compromise children's well-being. Despite this, the childminder has highly effective procedures in place to promote the good health of children. Each child has their own, named hand towel and individual dietary needs are met to a good standard. There are effective arrangements for sick children to ensure that the risks of cross-infection are limited. The childminder has effective arrangements to work in partnership with others who provide care and learning for the children in order that concerns can be quickly identified and managed.

The childminder demonstrates that she manages her setting exceptionally well. She talks with enthusiasm about the commitment she has to promoting better outcomes for children. She evaluates her work critically and takes into account the views of parents and children when planning for the development of her childminding service. The childminder is committed to her own professional development. She is qualified to level 5 and attends numerous, relevant training courses. In addition to childminding, the childminder works as a childcare trainer and assessor.

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

There were no children in the early years age range present at this inspection but the childminder demonstrates, through discussion and documentation that she knows the children extremely well and is able to talk confidently about their likes, dislikes, interests and stage of development. She plans around children's interests, using themes to plan interesting and stimulating activities to promote all areas of learning. For example, a recent topic about food - implemented as a result of children's interest in this - has resulted in activities, such as a 'virtual reality tour'

of a gallery to identify artists who use food as a stimulus, in order to promote children's interests in knowledge and understanding of the world and weighing ingredients for baking activities to promote problem solving, reasoning and numeracy. Activities are adapted to ensure that all children can be included, such as looking at menus together and then attempting to create their own through words and/or pictures. Children 's ability to apply skills appropriate to their age and their enthusiasm to explore and investigate helps to ensure that they are developing skills for the future to contribute to their economic well-being.

The childminder demonstrates that children are developing an excellent sense of belonging and are totally at ease in her care. The environment is warm and welcoming and consistent routines are followed to promote children's confidence and independence. Unwanted behaviour is managed very well, taking into account children's age and stage of development. Good behaviour is valued and praised. The childminder has a positive ethos of inclusion and helps children to play harmoniously, implementing games that require them to share and take turns. Through this and the provision of a wide range of toys and resources to promote positive images of culture, gender and disability, children are developing respectful attitudes to others.

Outcomes for children are consistently good and the childminder helps them to learn how to keep themselves safe, for example, the emergency evacuation procedure is practised regularly to ensure all children know what to do to keep themselves safe in an emergency. Children are developing an awareness of healthy eating and take part in activities, such as, planting and growing vegetables and topics around food and healthy eating. The childminder is careful to ensure children are accessing fresh air and exercise, checking with the children when they arrive home from school that they have had 'outdoor playtime' - particularly if it has been a wet day. If children have not been out during the school day then they are taken on a walk into the local environment and outdoor play is also encouraged.

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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