

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	256518
Inspection date	30/11/2011
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 was registered in 1994. She lives with her husband, adult son and daughter on the outskirts of a mid Norfolk market town. The downstairs rooms of the childminder's house, except the utility room, are used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register to care for a maximum of four children under eight years at any one time. She is also registered on both the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. She is currently caring for five children, all on a part-time basis. Of these, one child is in the early years age group. There were no children present at this inspection.

The childminder has a relevant childcare qualification to Level 4.

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is satisfactory.

The childminder has a very good knowledge and understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage to help children make rapid progress towards the early learning goals. She demonstrates that she provides a warm, welcoming environment, in which, all children are fully included and their individual needs met. Children's health is promoted well and most requirements for safeguarding are met. The childminder has developed friendly and trusting relationships with parents and has effective partnerships with others who provide care and learning for the children. She is aware of the need to evaluate the strengths of her setting and areas for development, in order to promote better 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:

- include the procedures that would be followed if an allegation was made against the childminder, or a family member, into the safeguarding policy and make this available to parents (Safeguarding and promoting children's welfare). 02/12/2011

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

- establish a culture of reflective practice in order to identify the setting's strengths and areas for development that will improve the quality of provision for children.

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder demonstrates a good awareness of the signs and symptoms of abuse to help her recognise when children may be at risk. She knows how to report concerns, and is confident to do so, in order to protect children's well-being. The childminder has a written safeguarding policy but she has not included the procedures that she would follow if an allegation was made against herself or a family member. Therefore, the procedure is not shared with parents to ensure that necessary processes can be followed. Despite this, the childminder does have an effective complaints procedure in place, which includes the contact details of Ofsted, to enable general complaints to be dealt with quickly and efficiently.

The childminder's home is warm and welcoming to help children feel settled and secure. Risk assessments are carried out for the home, garden and outings to identify hazards and minimise risks in order that they can play safely. All necessary written permissions have been obtained from parents to promote children's well-being, such as, permission to take children on outings and to seek necessary emergency medical advice or treatment. Relationships with parents are friendly and trusting, resulting in effective partnerships to promote continuity of care and meet children's individual needs. Parents report that the childminder provides a safe environment which gives them peace of mind. They feel that the childminder helps their child to be 'the happiest she's ever been having childminding care'. The childminder works well with others who provide care and learning for the children and this ensures that any concerns about a child can be quickly identified and effectively managed.

The childminder manages her setting well. She is committed to her own professional development and has a recognised early years qualification. In addition, she regularly attends relevant training and workshops to further develop her childcare skills and knowledge. The procedures to identify the setting's strengths and areas for development are not robust but the childminder has made some attempts to monitor her setting. For example, she evaluates the activities that she carries out with children to judge the success of them and has identified some areas for development, such as attending risk assessment training to ensure that she is fully aware of the procedures that she should follow to record, review and monitor hazards.

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. The childminder has a good awareness of the learning and development requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage and plans a range of activities for school holiday times to promote children's development. These include, outings into the local environment,

such as visits to the zoo and playground where children can be active.

The childminder demonstrates a good awareness of the importance of observation and assessment in order to plan for the next steps in children's learning. She does not keep her own developmental records for the child she cares for in the early years age group but contributes her observations to the records maintained at the preschool that the child attends, which the childminder also works at. Children's dietary needs are mostly met by their parents as they provide meals for their children, although, healthy snacks are provided by the childminder. Children are encouraged to wash their hands before eating and after toileting and sit at the table to eat.

Children are developing skills for the future. The environment is used effectively to meet children's needs and toys are stored in the playroom, in low-level units, to enable children to reach them independently. The childminder provides a good range of toys and resources which are appropriate to the age of the children on roll and consistent routines are followed to promote children's confidence and independence. Unwanted behaviour is managed very well, taking into account children's stage of development and level of understanding. 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.

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

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	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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