

## Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique reference number</b>	EY248877
<b>Inspection date</b>	20/11/2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Donna Suzanne Lancaster

<b>Type of setting</b>	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 report includes information on any complaints about the childcare provision which Ofsted has received since the last inspection or registration whichever is the later, which require Ofsted or the provider to take action in Annex C.

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.

## Description of the childminding

The childminder has been registered since 2003. She lives with her husband and four children aged 21, 11 and nine years and 17 months. They live in a house in Ingleby Barwick. The house is situated within easy distance of local shops, schools, playgroup and toddler group. The childminder uses the playroom, kitchen, hallway and bathroom on the ground floor of the property. There is access to a designated bedroom and an additional bathroom on the first floor. There is a fully enclosed rear garden available for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered for a maximum of five children under eight years old. There are currently four children on roll, of whom, two are in the Early Years age group. The childminder offers a full time service, including after school care and school holidays. She is currently caring for four children; all children attend part time.

The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. She is a member of the National Childminding Association and the local childminder group.

## Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The childminder welcomes all children into her home. They are cared for in a warm, inclusive and caring environment. Sound resources sufficiently support children in their play. The childminder's knowledge of the Early Years Foundation Stage welfare requirements and guidance is inadequate and some record keeping and the information contained in some policies and procedures are incorrect or insufficient to ensure children's welfare is protected at all times. The childminder has a positive attitude to developing her practice and making further improvements to the service she provides; however, these systems are not yet established.

Overall, the early years provision requires significant improvement. The registered person is given a Notice to Improve that sets out actions to be carried out.

## What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

To comply with the requirements of the EYFS the registered person must take the following action by the specified date:

- ensure that the Local Safeguarding Children Board guidance about what to do if there are concerns about a child is obtained, understood and is implemented to safeguard children (Safeguarding and promoting children's welfare) (also applies to both parts of the Childcare Register) 04/12/2008
- ensure the correct contact details are available to 04/12/2008

parents in the procedure to be followed if they have a complaint (Safeguarding and promoting children's welfare) (also applies to both parts of the Childcare Register)

- carry out regular risk assessments and take reasonable steps to ensure the safety of children (Suitable premises, environment and equipment) (also applies to both parts of the Childcare Register) 04/12/2008
- increase knowledge and understanding of the requirements of the EYFS, including observation, planning and assessment (Organisation) 04/12/2008
- develop effective systems of evaluation to ensure that the individual needs of all children are met and to promote an environment of continuous improvement (Organisation) 04/12/2008
- ensure the hours of children's daily attendance are recorded accurately (Documentation) 04/12/2008

To improve the early years provision the registered person should:

- practise regular evacuation drills and maintain a record of any problems encountered
- develop links with other agencies and the ways in which parents can be more involved in assessing children's starting points and capabilities.

## **The leadership and management of the early years provision**

The childminder has a caring relationship with the children in her care and talks confidently about the children's interests and stages of development. She exchanges verbal information with parents on a daily basis and has begun to completed written daily diaries, in which parents also write information to help the childminder know what their child has been doing at home. However, links with parents are not fully developed to ensure children's individual learning needs are met. For example, children's starting points and capabilities are not recorded and systems for observation, assessment and planning for each child are not in place to monitor children's progress in order to share with parents. In addition, links have not been made with other settings that the children attend to enable relevant information about the delivery of the Early Years Foundation Stage to be shared to ensure continuity and coherence for every child.

The childminder has some records, policies and procedures in place, such as children's likes, dislikes and any dietary requirements and accident and medication records. Consents are obtained from parents and child protection and complaints procedures are available. However, these are not sufficiently robust or fully understood by the childminder to fully promote the overall needs of individual children. For example, the childminder's knowledge and understanding of what to do if she has concerns about a child is insufficient to protect children and she has not obtained local guidance so that she is better informed. The procedure to be

followed in the event of an allegation made against an adult is not included in her policy. The complaints procedure does not have the correct contact details for the regulating body and the hours of children's daily attendance are not recorded accurately. The childminder has not been fully proactive in reading and assessing what she has to develop to comply with the requirements of the new Early Years Foundation Stage. However, she demonstrates an ability to identify some areas for improvement and is keen to attend training to improve her knowledge and understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage requirements.

The childminder has a current first aid certificate, her certificate of registration is prominently displayed and an up-to-date public liability insurance is in place. The childminder talks confidently about the procedure to follow in the event of a fire, although this has yet to be practised and a record is not in place. This does not fully protect children's welfare. The childminder is safety conscious and has taken steps to eliminate all obvious hazards from her home and garden. However, a risk assessment has not been conducted, to identify any new potential hazards to maintain the safety of the children. The childminder has a positive attitude towards caring for children with additional needs and demonstrates a satisfactory understanding of how to promote inclusion for all children.

## **The quality and standards of the early years provision**

The childminder interacts well with the children, which leads to children feeling relaxed, content and very much at home. They develop a sense of belonging because they are cared for in a family environment and treated as an extension of the childminder's own family. Although the children are very young, they play together with interest as they take delight in the interactive books and toys. Routines and care that have been established with parents are consistent with home; this promotes children's sense of security and develops their confidence. Children are provided with a range of age-appropriate activities, which enables them to learn new skills whilst at the same time enjoy themselves. For example, they enjoy building towers with the building bricks and knocking them down; they happily bang the xylophone and the musical instruments with the drum stick; they crawl in and out and through the play tunnel; and they pretend to make cups of tea. Children make choices and take decisions as they freely explore the playroom, which is arranged with toys at their level so that they can easily self-select and be independent.

Children begin to develop their physical skills as they go on regular walks to the local shops and enjoyable outings to the park to feed the animals and play on the larger equipment. They develop their social skills through frequent visits to the childminder's friend's home and toddler groups. Younger children really enjoy tactile books and shape sorters. They sit together with the childminder to explore these. For example, push button musical books and the talking atlas, colour books which aid children's learning in beginning to count familiar objects and identify colours and shapes. However, the childminder's awareness of the areas of learning and Early Years Foundation Stage requirements is limited and systems are not in place to observe, assess and plan for next steps in children's learning and development.

Children are well protected from cross infection and helped to stay healthy due to the childminder's thorough approach to health and hygiene. For example, toys are frequently cleaned using an anti-bacterial substance, separate face cloths are used for each child and nappy changing is carried out with a good regard for hygiene. Although some children are too young to understand simple good health and hygiene practices themselves, they are already becoming familiar with good routines as their hands are washed for them at appropriate times. The childminder actively encourages plenty of useful discussions with children about keeping themselves safe. For example, they talk about not running inside the home, tidying toys away before getting more out and she talks about road safety as they cross roads together.

## 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*

### Overall effectiveness

<b>How effective is the provision in meeting the needs of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage?</b>	4
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	3
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	3

### Leadership and management

<b>How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?</b>	4
How effective is the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement?	3
How well does the setting work in partnership with parents and others?	3
How well are children safeguarded?	4

### Quality and standards

<b>How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?</b>	4
<b>How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?</b>	4
How well are children helped to stay safe?	3
How well are children helped to be healthy?	3
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	4
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	3
How well are children helped develop skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being?	3

Any complaints about the inspection or report should be made following the procedures set out in the guidance available from Ofsted's website: [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)

## 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:

- take action as specified in the early years section of the report (CR7) 04/12/2008
- take action as specified in the early years section of the report (CR2) 04/12/2008

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 in the early years section of the report (CR7) 04/12/2008
- take action as specified in the early years section of the report (CR2) 04/12/2008

## **Annex C: complaint/s made to Ofsted**

This section of the report includes details of any complaint/s made to Ofsted when:

- we took action for the provider to meet the requirements of the Early Years Register; or
- we asked the provider to take action in order to meet the requirements of the Early Years Register; or
- the provider had already taken any necessary action to meet the requirements of the Early Years Register.

We will not report on any complaint where the provider met the requirements of the Early Years Register or did not require any action by Ofsted or the registered provider.

### **Detail of the complaint/s**

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the last inspection.

The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by parents, which they can see on request. The complaints record may contain complaints other than those made to Ofsted.