

Inspection report for early years provision

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Inspection date	29/04/2010
Inspector	Yvonne Victoria Facey
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.

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

Childminder has been a childminder since 2000. She lives with their two sons aged 18 and 15 years in Sheffield. The home is within walking distance of the local park, school and toddler group. The ground floor of the home is used for childminding including a downstairs toilet. Children also have access to first floor rooms. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children and there are currently four children on roll in the early years range.

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.

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is satisfactory.

The childminder has a satisfactory understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage and provides children with an adequate range of activities to support their learning and development. Children are making satisfactory progress towards the early learning goals. Sound systems for gathering information from parents and other providers ensures that children's individual needs are met. Children are safe and adequate opportunities are provided for them to make choices in their play. The childminder has a satisfactory understanding of inclusive practice. The childminder has not developed a fully effective method to reflect on the strengths and areas for improvement. However, she has addressed all recommendations from the previous inspection and is suitably placed to maintain improvement through undertaking regular training.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- ensure children's starting points are used to further their development
- develop the self-evaluation systems to reflect on all aspects of the provision
- develop further opportunities for outdoor play that cover all six areas of learning and arrange routines so that children make decisions about when to go out
- continue to develop the observation, assessment and planning systems, to help children make quicker progress towards the early learning goals.

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder has a sound understanding of her role with regard to safeguarding children and the procedures to follow if she had any concerns about children's

welfare. All required documentation is in place, including policies for safeguarding children and a complaints procedure.

Written records relating to accidents and medication are kept and shared with parents; however, existing injuries are not recorded. The childminder uses risk assessments to ensure children are cared for in a safe environment, including assessments for outings and visits. Children are protected from the spread of infections because the childminder shares her policy with parents regarding the care of sick children and follows sound hygiene practices. They move around the indoor rooms independently, but cannot make their own decisions about when to play outside. The childminder supervises them closely.

Suitable partnerships have been established with parents. They receive copies of the childminder's policies and procedures; sound arrangements are in place to encourage them to be involved in their children's learning. For example, parents have access to their children's development file and the childminder has verbal discussions regarding children's development. Appropriate links have been made to share relevant information with other practitioners. Details regarding children's starting points and capabilities in their learning are not systematically gathered to ensure children's learning is consistent. The childminder attends suitable training, such as first aid and safeguarding.

The childminder has an adequate understanding of inclusive practice and recognises each child as an individual. She gets to know the children and, as a result, meets their health and welfare needs well. Improvement systems are adequate. The childminder has an accurate understanding of her abilities as a provider, but lacks a fully effective system for evaluating her provision to identify all areas for development.

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

Children make satisfactory progress in their learning and development. The childminder links her observations to the relevant areas of children's learning and has begun to use this information to plan activities. She plans an adequate balance of adult-led and child-led activities. There are suitable toys, books and equipment available, to ensure children are provided with a suitable range of activities. The childminder organises toys and equipment within easy reach of children, encouraging them to become inquisitive and to make simple choices about their play. Outdoor play is available and some activities are planned. However, planned activities for outdoor play are not focused to enhance children's learning and progress in all six areas of learning.

Children enjoy the time they spend with the childminder and their achievements are recognised and praised, which helps to build their confidence. Children are eager to explore their environment and learn new skills. They readily seek her support when needed, such as a helping hand when learning to jump. They excitedly press buttons on toys, attempt to sort shapes and investigate how things work. There are appropriate opportunities for children to develop their communication and language skills. They enjoy singing and joining in with action

rhymes. For example, they sing 'row row the boat' with the childminder imitating the actions. Children's physical skills are developing well. They climb, jump and play games such as football. Younger children enjoy building and knocking down a tower of stacking cups with the childminder.

The childminder understands the importance of teaching children to keep themselves and others safe and be aware of possible dangers in their environment. For example, she explains to young children not to throw toys because they might hurt someone. The childminder ensures children's dietary needs are met and provides them with healthy and nutritious snacks. She has begun to discuss the importance of healthy food such as which foods are good for them. Children's behaviour is appropriately managed by the childminder through her use of age appropriate methods, such as distraction and explanation.

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

How effectively is the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?	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:	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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