

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	302742
Inspection date	29/10/2008
Inspector	Hilary Mary Mckenning
Type of setting	Childminder

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 1993. She lives with her husband and adult children. They live in a house close to the centre of Barnsley. It is within walking distance of local amenities.

The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding purposes, along with the bathroom on the first floor. There is a garden to the rear of the property which is suitable for outdoor play. There is a dog and a fish tank with a variety of fish.

The childminder is registered to care for six children at any one time and is caring for nine children on a part-time basis. They attend for a variety of sessions. The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. She is accredited as part of the Childminding Network and is a member of Childminders Together.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Children's sense of belonging is fostered well though the warm, welcoming and homely atmosphere. They access a variety of resources and experiences where they can learn about themselves and explore differences. Interest in the local community is promoted through regular outings and visits. There is a system in place to evaluate and monitor the service offered and identified issues have been addressed. The childminder successfully engages with parents and regularly shares children's assessments. These are used effectively in planning a variety of activities to ensure children's individual needs are met. Children develop a high degree of self-confidence and a healthy self-esteem. All of the required documentation is in place and maintained appropriately. There are links in place with other providers to encourage and promote children's learning and development.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- further develop planning and assessments to aid children's learning and development.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder is committed to the development and improvement of her practice. For example, she uses the self-evaluation form to identify areas of improvement and training needs. The childminder has a thorough knowledge of the Early Years Foundation Stage framework and makes effective use of children's assessments when planning activities. There is an effective system in place to monitor and evaluate children's progress relative to their starting points, although planning does not routinely identify children's next steps towards the early learning

goals. Children's assessments and photographic evidence are shared regularly with parents and their contributions are encouraged and welcomed. The childminder has positive relationship with the children's parents and other professionals and has established very good links with the local settings to secure continuity of experience and care for each child between settings. They work together well to ensure the continuity of care and education in order to meet children's individual needs.

Children are very well protected as the childminder has clear awareness of her role and responsibilities with regards to safeguarding children. She is proactive in checking the suitability of people who have regular contact with children. For example, ensuring all adults in the household are appropriately vetted.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children are settled, secure and confident in the childminder's care. The environment is used effectively and all resources are of good quality and appropriate for the stages of children's development.

Children's welfare, learning and development are promoted successfully by the well-organised and flexible approach of the childminder. She plans the day carefully, ensuring the activities meet each child's needs. There are comprehensive policies and procedures in place, which are shared with parents. They provide a very clear sense of purpose and direction, enhancing the care and learning of children. The childminder has a good understanding of safeguarding children and has completed a relevant child protection course. She is confident to follow the procedure for reporting and recording any concerns she may have about a child in her care.

Children are cared for in clean and well-maintained premises. The childminder has risk assessments in place, which are effectively used to ensure children are safe and secure at all times. Children are introduced to safety and how to keep themselves safe as the childminder involves them in regular fire drills and safety discussions, particularly road safety when walking to and from school. There have been no complaints since the last inspection and the childminder has knowledge of the requirements.

Children are well protected from illness and infection as they follow good hygiene procedures. They are encouraged to learn the importance of personal hygiene through good practice and daily routines. Procedures are in place for when children become ill, along with detailed recordings for accidents and the administering of any medication. Children enjoy a well-balanced range of healthy meals, snacks and drinks. They are developing an understanding of healthy eating as they are involved in helping to plan menus that meet their individual dietary needs and requirements.

Children make their own choices about their play from a wide range of resources that covers all areas of learning, developing their independence and self-confidence. Good opportunities allow children to explore the immediate environment with interest, building on their natural curiosity. Younger children show interest in simple

information and communication technology. They confidently use telephones as they pretend to talk to their parents and tap out letters on the keyboard.

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

How effective is the provision in meeting the needs of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage?	2
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	2
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	2

Leadership and management

How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?	2
How effective is the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement?	2
How well does the setting work in partnership with parents and others?	2
How well are children safeguarded?	2

Quality and standards

How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?	2
How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?	2
How well are children helped to stay safe?	2
How well are children helped to be healthy?	2
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	2
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	2
How well are children helped develop skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being?	2

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

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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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.