

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	318797
Inspection date	01/06/2009
Inspector	Shirley Peart
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 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 1991. The provision is registered on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. She lives in Fawdon, Newcastle upon Tyne with her husband and their adult children. The ground floor of the home and the bathroom on the first floor are used for childminding. There is an enclosed rear garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to take a maximum of six children. There are currently three children attending who are within the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) age group. The childminder also offers care to four children aged over five years and one child aged over eight years.

She is a member of the National Childminding Association. The only pets on the premises are goldfish.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall, the quality of the provision is good. The childminder treats children as unique individuals, in a caring way so that they all feel special while they are in her care, therefore they have warm, trusting relationships with her. Children progress very well and their welfare is effectively promoted as she has a good understanding of the requirements within the EYFS. The organisation of the provision is good, although there are some omissions with regard to documentation. She has made very good progress since the last inspection, reflects on her practice through self-evaluation and has a positive attitude to her own self-development. She works successfully in partnership with parents and they share what they know about the children, so that children's overall needs are met very well.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- update policies with the correct contact details for Ofsted.

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

- keep a written record of any complaints and their outcome (Safeguarding and promoting children's welfare)

30/06/2009

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder has made very good progress since the last inspection. She is committed to developing her own knowledge further and has attended a number of relevant short training courses and workshops. She has also worked hard to achieve the diploma in Home-based Childcare and has used the self-evaluation process to help her reflect on practice. This ensures that children are well cared for by a knowledgeable, dedicated childminder. She has many years experience, is competent in her role and clearly loves working with the children.

She understands her responsibility in safeguarding children and in notifying parents and Ofsted of any concerns or complaints, although she has not retained a written record. The Ofsted certificate and information poster are prominently displayed, although the contact number for Ofsted in the policies is out of date. Her written risk assessments are very comprehensive and the daily and weekly safety check lists helps to safeguard children further. Medication and accident recording is appropriate and she talks to parents about any special diets, allergies or medical problems that she needs to be aware of so that children's individual needs, likes and dislikes are adhered to.

The childminder's portfolio is very well organised under the Every Child Matters outcomes and comprehensive information is shared with parents, such as policies, procedures and training certificates. The childminder is open and honest with parents so that she builds up good relationships with them. Verbal exchange of information takes place on a daily basis and written daily diaries are provided if parents want them. She is a popular choice, as younger siblings of children already attending generally take up places with her. She gains feedback from parents and children via questionnaires and letters, which are all very positive. Young children's comments include that, being at the childminder's house 'makes me happier' and 'I love everything at her house.' All parents are satisfied with her service.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The childminder demonstrates a good understanding of keeping children safe and healthy. Children play in a very clean and well maintained home. They regularly walk to and from school so that they get plenty of fresh air and exercise, but she also ensures that this is a stimulating, learning experience for them. For example, she talks with them about how to cross roads safely, why they should not talk to strangers, points out things in the environment and they collect leaves and acorns for creative play. Children are well protected from strong sunlight, as they wear sunhats and sun cream. Young children make choices about what they would like to eat and enjoy healthy substantial food such as, fresh fruit, toast, raw vegetable kebabs and home cooked dinners. Children grow carrots and tomatoes and then take these home or eat them, which helps them to gain an interest in food and its source.

The childminder has grasped a good understanding of the EYFS framework. She uses written observations and photographs of the children to record their progress

and development and links this effectively to the different aspects within the areas of learning. She uses the Practice Guidance successfully to help her monitor children's learning and to plan for the 'next steps.' She knows each child very well as she confidently talks about their interests, individual personalities and what they can do. She treats all children with equal concern and manages their behaviour in a consistent way. Diverse books and toys provide talking points for children so that they learn to value differences in a positive way, which helps them to develop positive attitudes and learn respect for one another.

Children are very happy and settled in the childminder's care as they play contentedly, concentrate well on what they are doing and sing spontaneously. They are beginning to ask simple questions about things that interest them and have lots of fun when they play 'peek-a-boo' with the childminder. They have clearly formed close, trusting relationships as they laugh, giggle and approach her easily. The childminder is very adept at knowing when to help children and when to sit back and observe what they do, thus allowing them time and space to achieve their aims, although she is always on hand to help and be involved in their play. Children chat happily about what they do and what they want. They enjoy pretend play as they undress and dress the dolls and then successfully strap them into the buggy by themselves to take them for a walk. They are inquisitive learners as they successfully manage to make the activity zoo work by pressing buttons. They imitate animal noises and make 'scary' gestures when they roar like a lion. Overall, children enjoy and achieve very well while they are with the childminder.

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:

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:

- provide parents with copies of the written statements of safeguarding procedures and complaints procedures (CR9.1) (also applies to the voluntary part of the Childcare Register)

30/06/2009

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 above for the compulsory part of the Childcare Register (CR9.1)

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