

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY248554
Inspection date	24/10/2008
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 registered in December 2002. She lives with her husband and two children in a terraced house within easy walking distance of the village of Mapplewell near Barnsley. Children have access to lounge, dining-kitchen and bathroom to the ground floor. There is an enclosed outdoor play area available to the rear of the house. The childminder is a member of the local sponsored network and the NCMA.

The childminder may care for six children at any one time and is currently caring for nine children on a part time basis. The childminder is registered on the Early years register and the compulsory and the voluntary part of the Child Care register.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The childminder regularly consults with parents about their children's routines and interests in order to meet individual children's needs. Most of the required documentation is in place and maintained appropriately. There are links in place with other agencies to encourage and promote children's learning and development. Observations are routinely completed with all children. Children 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 which the childminder monitors and evaluates the service she offers.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- continue to develop planning to identify individual children needs.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder has a sound understanding of her role in keeping children safe. There is a selection of policies and procedures, which contributes to the operation of childminding practices. Most required records and documentation is in place and stored securely. All adults in contact with children have completed the appropriate vetting process. Policies and procedures are implemented to promote children's welfare.

The childminder completes suitable risk assessments and areas requiring attention are acted on to ensure that children are kept safe, both in the home and on outings. Children are introduced to safety and how to keep themselves safe for example, the childminder explains why rules are needed and children are involved

in safety discussions. They think about road safety during their walk to and from school each day and learn safe practices as they use the large play equipment in the park. Children also take part in regular fire drills.

The childminder demonstrates that she is able to make necessary improvements, as she has made changes to the garden ensuring children can play safely and securely. Although the childminder has started to evaluate her practise, the system to identify strengths and weaknesses is not fully utilised in order to ensure further improvement.

The childminder has an understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage framework and is beginning to use assessments of children's achievements to inform planning. She has established good links with the local school and works to follow themes, topics and identified areas to consolidate children's learning. The childminder has a positive relationship with children and their parents and regularly shares information with parents to keep them up to date about the care of their children. Parents are offered the opportunity to complete questionnaires and contribute to the service they receive.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children's welfare, learning and development is promoted well by the organised and flexible approach of the childminder. She plans activities using a wide variety of resources to meet individual children's needs. Children's progression is monitored. Children are very settled and feel secure and confident in the childminder's care. Children show confidence and are comfortable being with the childminder and they play together. The childminder encourages children's learning as they count the steps together when climbing the aeroplane steps with the small world people.

A good range of well-written policies and procedures are in place and shared with parents thereby providing a clear sense of direction and enhancing the care and learning of the children. The childminder introduces children to be aware of danger and how to keep safe as they practice road safety during daily outing and walks to school. The childminder has an excellent 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.

There are appropriate routines in place that promote good hygiene and protect children's health. Children learn about healthy eating as all food is nutritious and meets individual dietary requirements. There are suitable systems in place to deal with accidents involving children. There are suitable systems in place to deal with accidents involving children and the childminder has written parental permission to administer first aid treatment. Parents have been informed about the procedure for making a complaint and there is a suitable system in place for keeping a record of any complaints.

Children's behaviour is effectively managed and positive encouragement means

they behave well and show kindness and consideration towards each other. There are suitable methods in place to deal with unacceptable behaviour, such as distraction, one to one, time out and re-direction. Children are forming positive relationships with each other and join in activities together as they make prints and pictures to make an autumn display. The children receive very good support and praise at every opportunity. The childminder provides a warm and caring environment, which fosters children's feelings of security and confidence.

The wide range of toys and resources enables children to enjoy their learning and they are making good progress. The childminder takes advantage of situations that may arise to enhance children learning. For example, she introduced discussions around fire safety following a visit from the Fire service. All activities are age appropriate and give the children lots of enjoyment and pleasure. They are happy and settled and have plenty of fun time. Children make a positive contribution by becoming involved in all areas of play. They are kind, considerate and respect each other and the childminder. They learn about the wider world and its diversity through good examples set by the childminder and are beginning to appreciate the multi-cultural society we live in. For example, they talk about families, where they live and where friends live, and take part in other festivals and celebrations. There are suitable resources to help them understand and learn about other cultures and how their actions can affect others. Children's future economic well-being is fostered through a positive relationship with the childminder and good support and praise from her.

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.