

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY249001
Inspection date	11/02/2009
Inspector	Sharon, Amelia Robson
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 2003. She lives with her family in a residential area of Wallsend, North Tyneside, which is close to local schools, parks, shops and transport links. Children have access to the whole of the ground floor and first floor bathroom. There is an enclosed rear garden available for outdoor play. The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. At present she is caring for three children on a part-time basis. The childminder has level 3 childcare qualifications. The family have a pet rabbit.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The childminder provides children with excellent support to enable them to make very good progress in their learning and development. She is extremely committed to providing an inclusive environment where all children are valued and respected, and where every child's individual needs are met. They are also encouraged to develop a positive attitude towards diversity and difference, from the extremely positive role model provided by the childminder. They experience an extremely wide range of stimulating and exciting activities, which take into account children's likes, interests and specific needs. The childminder has a great capacity to improve the service she provides, as she regularly evaluates her practice, including reviewing and updating her comprehensive and detailed policies and procedures and completing her self-evaluation. She has also put into place detailed and comprehensive written observation, monitoring and assessment procedures and has excellent links with local schools and nurseries.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

To further improve the high quality early years provision the registered person should consider:

- continue to expand knowledge of the Early Years Foundation Stage.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder has extremely detailed and comprehensive written policies and procedures in place, including written parental consents for seeking emergency treatment, which ensures children are safeguarded effectively. All policies and procedures are reviewed and updated regularly. All documentation and records are extremely well organised and confidentially maintained. Children's safety is given the highest priority. Risk assessments are detailed and extensive, taking into account both the indoor and outdoor environment, including outings. These are updated as and when necessary. The childminder has an excellent understanding of her role in safeguarding children in her care. She has recently completed an advanced course, therefore ensuring her knowledge is up to date and

comprehensive. She has extensive policies and procedures in place regarding safeguarding and ensures she shares this information with parents.

The childminder is extremely proactive in ensuring her knowledge regarding children's learning and development is sound and as a result, she has attended a number of relevant courses to enhance this. She has completed a National Vocational Qualification, level 3 and a Quality First qualification. She has an excellent understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and is aware of the need to continue to expand her knowledge. She has taken time to complete her self-assessment in order to develop her strengths and identify any weaknesses.

Partnerships with parents is extremely strong, as the childminder values their contributions and keeps them very well informed about all aspects of their children's development and achievements. Detailed information from parents is effectively used in planning to ensure learning opportunities are provided that meet children's individual needs. The childminder has received extremely positive written comments from parents and she provides them with a suggestion box to allow them to have an input in her service. She shares information with parents on a daily basis, they also have access to their child's 'learning journey' file, which includes observations, photographs and children's work. Parents receive a quarterly newsletter, which includes details of plans, outings and also information about the EYFS. The childminder has made excellent links with other services used by minded children.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The childminder has impressive systems in place to ensure children make good progress across all areas of learning. She has excellent observation and assessment records which are linked to the EYFS and used to record and monitor children's development and to identify their next steps of learning. She plans and adapts activities according to children's individual needs and to ensure each child reaches their full potential. Flexible weekly plans are in place to allow the childminder the opportunity to respond to children's interests and to ensure each child is happy and engaged in their learning and play. Children are able to make their own choices, as there is a very good balance between adult-led and child-initiated activities. The childminder interacts extremely well with the minded children, ensuring she takes opportunities to help children develop their skills and learning. For example, she talks to a child playing on the floor with a range of small world animals and asks her what type of food they like to eat. Also when reading a book with the child she talked about colours and names of the sea creatures.

Children make excellent progress in their social skills and confidence, as they have regular opportunities to attend local toddler and childminder drop-in groups. They also regularly participate in outdoor activities, including visits to the marina, and the country park for 'welly walks' and 'pond dipping'. They also visit the soft play centre and use the very well resourced outdoor space. The childminder encourages children of all ages to use IT. equipment when visiting the local Sure Start centre.

Children have regular opportunities to participate in cookery sessions and they are able to visit local shops to buy the required ingredients. Excellent resources are provided to help children learn about the wider world, including books, dressing up clothes, dolls and access to a diversity resources box. They also celebrate cultural festivals and events.

Good health and well-being are promoted extremely well, as the childminder uses her detailed information on children's dietary and health needs appropriately. There are extremely comprehensive written health and welfare policies and procedures in place, including a detailed sick child policy, all of which are shared with parents. Hygiene procedures are promoted as children are encouraged to wash their hands at appropriate times and the childminder talks to them about the reasons for doing this. Healthy and nutritious meals and snacks are provided. The childminder takes opportunities to talk to children about healthy foods and they also have access to a 'being healthy' resource bag. Children have very good knowledge of safety while in the home and when out and about with the childminder. She talks to them about how to be safe when out walking and they have had opportunities to practice this in role play. They also have access to a 'being safe' resource bag, which includes relevant pictures, games and puppets.

Children are exceedingly happy and settled in the childminder's home. She is extremely responsive, kind and patient with the minded children and ensures they feel very comfortable and secure. Children are very well behaved, have very good manners and respond extremely well to the childminder's routines and consistent boundaries. They are happy to help with tidying up and respond positively to praise and encouragement.

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?	1
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	1
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	1

Leadership and management

How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?	1
How effective is the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement?	1
How well does the setting work in partnership with parents and others?	1
How well are children safeguarded?	1

Quality and standards

How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?	1
How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?	1
How well are children helped to stay safe?	1
How well are children helped to be healthy?	1
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	1
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	1
How well are children helped develop skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being?	1

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.