

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY301127
Inspection date	13/01/2009
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 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 June 2006. The provision is registered on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. She lives in the west of Newcastle upon Tyne with her child aged five years. The home is all on one level. The main room, kitchen, bathroom and child's bedroom are used for childminding. There is an enclosed rear yard for outside play.

The childminder is registered to take a maximum of five children at any one time. There are currently six children attending who are within the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) age group who attend on various days and times. The childminder also offers care to three children aged over five years.

She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Children are extremely well cared for by a highly effective, competent childminder who recognises each child's uniqueness. Her very good understanding of the EYFS ensures that children's welfare, learning and development is extremely well promoted. She is a popular choice with parents and continually reflects on her practice, as she seeks information from the children and parents about what she does well and not so well. She promotes inclusion very well, so that no child is disadvantaged or discriminated against.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- updating the complaints information to reflect the correct address and contact number for Ofsted.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder is part of the local childminding network. Therefore she attends regular training and meetings and keeps up-to-date with current events and practices. She has completed a self-evaluation format which assists her to target any improvements. However, she also regularly asks the children and parents what they think of her and acts on their responses. She is sincere and competent and has a natural approach to the care of young children. She is highly motivated, very calm and an excellent role model, so that children feel secure and are highly settled in her care.

Her risk assessments are comprehensive and she is very clear about what she

would do if she had concerns about a child, therefore children are effectively safeguarded. Relevant written policies and procedures are available to parents, although the complaints information regarding contact details for Ofsted are incorrect.

Parents are very well informed as the childminder exchanges information with them regularly and uses written daily diaries for each child, which the parents also contribute to. She gains good information from the parents about their child's routines and interests, so that she can tailor their play and activities to meet their individual needs. The lovely book of photographs and captions of what children do and how this links to the EYFS is always available. She is a popular choice with parents as she has a high number of pre-school children on her register.

The childminder builds up relationships with staff at the local pre-schools and nurseries that the children attend, so that they share vital information, as well as what children have been doing. This ensures that effective partnerships are in place so that parents, staff and the childminder all work together very well to meet the individual needs of the children.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children's welfare is promoted extremely well. They understand what they should and should not do in the event of an emergency as the childminder explains about safety in a way that children understand without being afraid. A lovely calm atmosphere is apparent and the childminder demonstrates a genuine interest in each child. Therefore they are clearly settled, very happy and extremely well cared for.

Lunch time is a rich learning opportunity for the children. For example, they independently choose what they want to have in their sandwiches and talk excitedly about events. They spend time chatting happily and the children listen attentively and join in as the childminder makes spontaneous statements about their plans and what they want to do, which inspires and captures the children's imaginations and curiosity extremely well. Plans and activities stem from the children's interests. For example, when children demonstrate an interest in lions they dress up as a lion, visit areas where they see 'lions' such as in shops, museums and even on cars. Activities, photographs and captions of the children at play are clearly linked to the specific elements within the areas of learning in the EYFS framework, as the childminder has a very good understanding of it.

Children are highly animated and confident. They love sitting in the cosy corner looking at books, pointing out the pictures and listening to stories with the childminder. The childminder asks them questions that make them think, respond and recall events, such as what they like about being in the maize at the park. This enhances their language for thinking extremely well. Children have lovely relationships with the childminder, they approach her easily and receive spontaneous and natural cuddles and kisses from her. The childminder provides a rich, varied and imaginative provision for young children; therefore they achieve extremely well and thoroughly enjoy what they do while they are with 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?	1
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	1
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?	1
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?	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?	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.