

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY314793
Inspection date	26/05/2009
Inspector	Yvonne Victoria Facey
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 was registered in 2005. She lives with her husband and their six year old child in Sheffield, close to shops, parks, schools and public transport links. The whole of the first floor is used for childminding. The family has a hamster. The childminder collects children from the local school, and attends toddler groups on a regular basis. She is a member of an approved childminding network.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time, and is currently minding three children under five years old. She also offers care to children aged over five years to 11 years. This provision is registered by Ofsted on the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is good. The childminder is successfully developing her service to enable continuous improvements for children. There are good communications with parents regarding children's individual care and learning needs. A stimulating range of daily activities and experiences ensure children are confident and included. The childminder has a sound understanding of promoting diversity, although this is an area she is focusing on to increase children's knowledge of the wider world.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- continue to extend children's understanding of culture and diversity.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder considers children's starting points and next steps in learning well. She uses this information to plan stimulating and interesting activities for children. An overall assessment is made on children's progress towards the early learning goals, and detailed written observations of what children have achieved are shared with parents. The childminder works closely with parents to ensure that she meets the children's individual and diverse needs. Parents are kept fully informed on how their children are cared for and what they achieve by receiving verbal and written information. The childminder organises her home so that it is welcoming and creates a positive learning environment for children. For example, colours and shapes and know your alphabet posters are displayed.

The childminder frequently enhances her knowledge and understanding of the early years framework to continually improve her service to improve outcomes for children. For example, she accesses training as well as finding relevant information from various sources to extend her knowledge and understanding of the Early

Years Framework. All required records for the safe management of the provision are in place. Comprehensive written policies and procedures clearly inform the parents of expectations and are of good quality. Arrangements for safeguarding children are strong. Risk assessments for the premises and outings are in place to ensure the safety of children at all times, which are detailed and all relevant information is included. The childminder has a good knowledge of how to protect children and protect them from harm. She is aware of the procedures to follow if there were any concerns about any children in her care, and she has a written child protection policy which she shares with parents.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The childminder successfully links with other early years providers to ensure continuity of learning, and to compliment activities and planning for individual children. She plans themes that are of interest to children and incorporates all areas of learning. As a result all children are making good progress towards the early learning goals. The childminder is aware of the importance of children recognising difference and similarities, although this is an area that she is expanding to ensure children get a true understanding of themselves and others.

There are a good selection of fiction and non fiction books available to children which they enjoy reading themselves and with the childminder. Children enjoy a good range of programmable toys, and explore shapes and patterns. They are also developing their counting skills and grouping different objects, which promotes their numeracy and problem solving skills. The childminder uses the local children's centre to access their sensory room to provide children with wider experiences and develop their senses. There are good opportunities for children to express their feelings through planned activities and discussions. For example, they draw faces to show different emotions and expressions and discuss their feelings. Children enjoy singing and playing musical instruments. For instance, they spontaneously sing as they play. They are very happy, content and show lots of interest in their play and there are good interactions with the childminder during their play. The childminder uses positive methods to manage behaviour, such as distraction and discussion.

The childminder has a positive approach to learning children how to keep themselves safe. They understand the house rules and are gently reminded to be careful when moving around the home, and the childminder successfully explains the boundaries. This enables children to gain confidence to explore and learn in a safe and secure environment. Children's health is promoted well as the childminder engages in discussions regarding healthy eating and robust practices to protect them from infection. They have access to a well balanced range of regular physical activities. Overall the childminder provides children and their families with a positive and good service that meets all their needs.

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

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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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