

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY320779
Inspection date	03/03/2011
Inspector	Julie Elliott
Type of setting	Childminder

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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.

Please see our website for more information about each childcare provider. We publish inspection reports, conditions of registration and details of complaints we receive where we or the provider take action to meet the requirements of registration.

Description of the childminding

The childminder was registered in 2006. She lives with her husband and children aged eight and three years in Lowfell, Gateshead. The whole of the ground floor and upstairs bathroom is used for childminding. There is an enclosed garden available for outside play. The childminder is able to take and collect children from local schools and pre-schools.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children under eight years at any one time, of whom, no more than two may be in the early years age range. There are currently four children attending who are within the Early Years Foundation Stage, all of whom attend on a part-time basis. The childminder also offers care to children aged over five years. She is registered on the Early Years Register and on both the voluntary and compulsory parts of the Childcare Register. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is satisfactory.

The childminder provides a welcoming environment where children are valued as individuals and their needs are met appropriately. Children make sound progress in their learning and development. Generally appropriate systems are in place for the safe and efficient management of the service. Satisfactory links with parents ensure children receive continuity in their care. The childminder has a satisfactory approach to self-evaluation and the ongoing improvement of her service.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- maintain a record of aspects of the environment that need to be checked on a regular basis and when and by whom they have been checked (Suitable premises, environment and equipment)(also applies to both parts of the Childcare register) 04/03/2011
- carry out a risk assessment for each specific outing (Safeguarding and promoting children's welfare) 03/03/2011

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

- further develop systems for observation and assessments for all children in the Early Years Foundation Stage so their progress can be tracked and the information used to inform future planning
- extend self evaluation by assessing what is provided against robust and

challenging quality criteria and use as the basis of ongoing review.

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder has completed safeguarding training and is aware of her responsibility to refer any concerns she may have about children's welfare. The childminder is trained in first aid, deals with accidents and incidents appropriately, and keeps the required records. Practical steps are taken to make the areas indoors safe, such as, the use of a stair gate and smoke alarms and a visual check of premises. However, the childminder does not maintain a record of aspects of the environment that need to be checked on a regular basis or a written risk assessment for outings. These specific legal requirements are not met.

Children are cared for in a well organised, spacious clean and homely environment. They access the whole of the ground floor enabling them to move freely and make their own choices from a varied selection of toys and equipment. All parents and children are made to feel welcome and most information is available to enable parents have a clear understanding of the service provided. Whilst the childminder has a sound understanding about what she would do in the event of a missing or uncollected child this is not shared with parents.

The childminder collects sufficient information about children's individual care, interests and abilities at introductory visits. This forms a suitable basis to monitor their progress. There is a regular exchange of information with parents and a daily diary is maintained about their child's routine and activities undertaken. The childminder is aware of the importance of liaising with other providers of the Early Years Foundation Stage, to promote consistency and continuity in children's learning and development, although currently there are no children attending other provisions.

The childminder has attended training to update her skills and knowledge. She has started to record the evaluation of her practice and now recognises the priorities and is able to demonstrate the capacity to achieve continuous improvement. She has addressed the recommendation raised at the previous inspection and has written parental consent to seek emergency medical treatment or advice.

The quality and standards of the early years provision and outcomes for children

The childminder makes some observations of the children in the Early Years Foundation Stage, but the systems for these and for assessment are not yet fully effective in tracking children's progress and identifying the next steps in their learning to help with future planning. Children choose what they play with from a sound range of toys and activities that are appropriate for their age and ability.

Children's physical needs are met in accordance with their own routine. Nappies are hygienically changed, hands are cleaned after lunch and young children have

appropriate sleeping arrangements in their buggy. The childminder is aware of children's dietary needs and preferences. Parents have the option to provide meals or the childminder has a healthy sample menu which includes chicken casserole and vegetable pasta. Drinks are available on a regular basis. Children have a suitable awareness of keeping safe, as young children learn not to put objects into their mouth, older children learn about road safety.

Children clearly enjoy the time they spend with the childminder. They receive lots of positive attention and approach her readily for reassurance and comfort. Their behaviour is good and managed very well through age-appropriate strategies. The childminder uses praise, which promotes children's confidence. Children eagerly participate in activities and make choices. They are interested in, for example, jigsaws and will return to this experience as they learn to successfully complete them. They learn to play together as the childminder talks about sharing resources. Independence is successfully promoted when children carry out activities, take off their boots and feed themselves.

Young children develop good language skills through effective support. They actively join in singing songs, listen to stories and repeat new words. They concentrate as the childminder explains the sequence of events when carrying out an activity. Children understand and respond to simple instructions which help them to succeed and further encourage their learning. They have good opportunities to experiment with a variety of material such as, paint, gloop, play dough and crayons to develop their dexterity and early mark making skills.

Outings in the local community to toddler group and the sensory room provide good opportunities to extend the range of activities and develop their social skills as they meet with other children. Babies enjoy crawling on textured mats and looking in mirrors and older children learn to negotiate climbing apparatus. They demonstrate an interest and are curious about how things work as they play with musical instruments, spin the wheel faster and jingle the bells.

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

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

How well does the setting meet the needs of the children in the Early Years Foundation Stage?	3
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement	3

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the Early Years Foundation Stage	3
The effectiveness of leadership and management in embedding ambition and driving improvement	3
The effectiveness with which the setting deploys resources	2
The effectiveness with which the setting promotes equality and diversity	3
The effectiveness of safeguarding	3
The effectiveness of the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement	3
The effectiveness of partnerships	3
The effectiveness of the setting's engagement with parents and carers	3

The quality of the provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage

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Outcomes for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage

Outcomes for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage	3
The extent to which children achieve and enjoy their learning	3
The extent to which children feel safe	3
The extent to which children adopt healthy lifestyles	3
The extent to which children make a positive contribution	2
The extent to which children develop skills for the future	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:

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:

- develop a written statement of procedures to be followed in relation to complaints (procedure for dealing with complaints) (also applies to voluntary part of the Childcare Register) 04/03/2011

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 in the compulsory part of the childcare register (Procedure for dealing with complaints) 04/03/2011