

Inspection report for early years provision

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Inspection date	09/12/2009
Inspector	Elaine Marie McDonnell
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).

Children only attend this setting before and/or after the school day and/or during the school holidays. The judgements in this report reflect the quality of early years provision offered to children during those periods.

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.

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Description of the childminding

The childminder has been registered since July 2006. She lives in a residential area of Redcar with her husband and two children, who are aged 12 and 15 years old. The home is close to local amenities, such as, shops, play park, soft play area and primary schools and is also not far from the beach and library.

The family have two dogs, which minded children have supervised access to. Minded children also have the use of the whole of the ground floor of the house, plus the bathroom and toilet on the first floor. There is an enclosed rear garden available for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for up to six children under 8 years old at any one time. The childminder is registered by Ofsted on the Early Years Register, and also on the voluntary and compulsory parts of the Childcare Register. There are currently six children on roll, aged between four and 10 years old, all are cared for on a part-time basis.

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is outstanding.

An very warm, welcoming and inclusive provision ensures that children's individual needs are effectively and consistently assessed and met. As a result children are making outstanding progress in their learning and development. The childminder has an excellent attitude towards self-evaluation and robust procedures are in place, including input for parents and children, to ensure the continuous improvement of the provision. The extent to which children make a positive contribution and learn to keep themselves safe are particular strengths within the setting. Children are very active within the local community and are involved in several 'clean-up' and fund-raising events, and have designed and made their own safety books.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- include comments from parents into children's records and continue to engage parents in their child's learning.

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

Children are very well safeguarded. Comprehensive procedures are in place, plus other useful publications, documents and booklets relating to safeguarding. The childminder demonstrates an excellent knowledge and understanding of child

abuse issues, and of how to put effective procedures into practice.

Comprehensive accident, emergency, illness and outings procedures are in place to promote children's overall welfare. Robust risk assessments ensure that the home, furniture and equipment and rear garden are very clean, hygienic, well maintained and are kept safe and secure, which promotes children's safety. The indoor and outdoor environment is made very warm and welcoming. Examples of children's work is attractively displayed, which helps to promote their confidence and self-esteem. Resources are very well deployed. Children have the use of the whole grown floor and move freely between the designated play room and lounge, they have easy access to a varied range of interesting and stimulating resources and activities.

The childminder has a very positive attitude towards personal development and has attended several additional training courses since the last inspection, for example, the Early Years Foundation Stage, first aid, food safety in catering, safeguarding children and she will also be starting a National Vocational Qualification at level 3 in the New Year.

The childminder has an excellent attitude towards driving improvement. She has effectively implemented and recorded a process of self-evaluation, which enables her to identify relevant areas for development. Current improvement plans include seeking more feedback from parents about their child's future development goals and engaging parents more in their child's learning. Children's and parents views and feelings are actively sought as part of the self-evaluation process and all recorded comments are extremely positive. Parents are kept fully informed of their child's development and progress and receive useful written information about the provision, including policy and procedure documents. All recommendations from the previous inspection have been fully addressed, resulting in better working in partnership with parents and excellent safeguarding procedures.

The childminder has a very positive attitude towards equality and diversity and ensures that this is constantly promoted within the setting. There are currently no children with any special educational needs or disabilities attending, however, the childminder has a very positive attitude towards caring for children with additional needs and has had experience of this in the past. She forms very good relationships and works closely with the local nursery and primary schools that the children also attend, so that a consistent approach to learning is implemented.

All records and documents required for the safe and efficient management of the provision are readily available, well kept, up to date and promote the outcomes for children and the excellent organisation of the provision.

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

The childminder has an excellent understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage and of the areas of learning. She provides a varied and interesting range of play experiences and observes and evaluates children's individual interests and

learning. As a result children make outstanding progress towards the early learning goals. Children thoroughly enjoy their play and are involved in deciding and planning activities and outings. They are very happy and settled and form excellent relationships with the childminder and peers. Children receive superb support, attention and encouragement from the childminder, which is well-balanced with promoting their independence.

Children present as being extremely safe and secure in the setting. They have excellent opportunities to learn about keeping themselves safe. For example, they participate in road safety discussions and activities, as well as themes around 'people who help us' and have designed and made their own fire safety and stranger danger information books. Rigorous and robust procedures ensure that children are kept safe on outings.

Children are provided with healthy and nutritious snacks and drinks, lunches are provided by their parents. They have regular opportunities to learn about the benefits of a healthy lifestyle through discussion and activities, such as, when completing a healthy eating project. They also make fruit smoothies, know what foods are good for them, have designed 'good and bad food' posters and learn about why hygiene is important. Children have regular opportunities for physical activity both indoors and outdoors and designed an obstacle course which they then re-created outdoors at the park.

Children have an excellent attitude towards learning and are confident to participate and make choices and decisions. Their problem solving and numeracy skills are regularly and very well promoted through the use of varied games, such as, matching and sorting activities. Writing skills are also promoted in a fun way, for example, when attempting to write a letter to Santa, and saying the sounds of letters and what letters come next in simple words. Children are very well behaved and behaviour is effectively and calmly managed by the childminder, who promotes a very friendly and calm environment.

Children have excellent opportunities to play a part in the wider community. They regularly visit local amenities, such as, the library, soft play and social groups. Children also get involved in the annual 'clean-up' event at the near-by beach plus a 'sponsored toddle' to raise money for charity. They gain a good understanding and a respect of the needs and beliefs of other people and cultures through a varied range of activities. Children's knowledge and understanding of the world is also extremely well promoted through visits to places of interest, such as, a butterfly sanctuary and a local Hall and Museum. Children are involved in recycling activities and have also made their own calendars about the different seasons.

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?	1
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement	1

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

How effectively is the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?	1
The effectiveness of leadership and management in embedding ambition and driving improvement	1
The effectiveness with which the setting deploys resources	1
The effectiveness with which the setting promotes equality and diversity	1
The effectiveness of safeguarding	1
The effectiveness of the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement	1
The effectiveness of partnerships	1
The effectiveness of the setting's engagement with parents and carers	2

The quality of the provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage

The quality of the provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage	1
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Outcomes for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage

Outcomes for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage	1
The extent to which children achieve and enjoy their learning	1
The extent to which children feel safe	1
The extent to which children adopt healthy lifestyles	1
The extent to which children make a positive contribution	1
The extent to which children develop skills for the future	1

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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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