

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY366150
Inspection date	15/01/2009
Inspector	Anne Bennett
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 was registered in 2008 and lives in a semi-detached property in Blackburn. The kitchen, dining room, lounge downstairs and the bathroom and main bedroom upstairs are used for childminding. There is a garden to the rear of the property for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children under eight years, and currently minds three children in the early years age group and two children on the compulsory Childcare Register. Care is offered between the hours of 08.00 and 18.00 Monday to Thursday.

The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register, compulsory part of the Childcare Register and the voluntary part of the Childcare Register. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The childminder has a good knowledge of the children in her care and responds to them in a warm and genuine way so that they feel secure and valued. Parents receive regular information about their child's learning and development, but are not currently made aware of the procedure to follow in order to make a complaint. Children make steady progress in all areas of learning however younger children are given limited opportunities to access sensory exploration. Planning and assessment processes are developing in order to maintain a clear focus for children as they progress towards the Early Learning Goals and self evaluation is in the initial stages. A sound awareness of inclusive practice ensures that all children are valued as individuals, and the environment and activities are available to all.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- maintain an up to date daily record of children's attendance
- extend planning, observation and assessment systems to clearly identify next steps for children as they progress towards the early learning goals
- consider ways to reflect more actively on practice including monitoring the effectiveness of inclusive practices
- consider further ways of providing younger children with opportunities to take part in sensory exploration.

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

- carry out and review written risk assessments for each specific type of outing (Safeguarding and welfare).

23/02/2009

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder demonstrates a positive attitude to the Early Years Foundation Stage framework and meeting children's individual needs. Policies and procedures are appropriately maintained, reviewed annually and shared with parents at admission. Children's individual records are in place and confidentially stored, however the attendance register is not currently updated on a daily basis in order to provide an accurate picture of children's attendance.

Robust systems are in place to ensure that children are safe and secure in the setting and daily checks are undertaken to monitor the ongoing suitability of premises and equipment. The childminder has a good understanding of roles and responsibilities in relation to child protection, and has undertaken additional training in health and safety and risk assessment to further knowledge and skills in relation to safeguarding children. Regularly reviewed and detailed risk assessments are in place however, written risk assessments are not currently conducted for individual outings. A clear fire evacuation policy is implemented, and regular drills are completed in order to effectively develop children's awareness of danger, and how to stay safe in the event of a fire.

Opportunities are available for parents to take children's individual records home and they also receive regular information about their child's care and development in the form of daily diaries. Parents find the information in daily diaries useful and praise the safety and suitability of the premises, however they are not currently provided with information about the procedure to follow in order to make a complaint. House rules are in place and shared with parents to ensure a consistent approach to managing behaviour. The childminder is beginning to involve parents in contributing their views and opinions of the setting by inviting them to write letters of recommendation.

The childminder has an adequate understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of the provision although formal systems to reflect on practice are not currently in place. A clear commitment to attending further training and establishing links with other Early Years providers is evident, and the childminder is open to support from the local authority and childminder support networks.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children make steady progress across all areas of learning and access a range of interesting activities and opportunities including baking, going for walks and jumping in puddles, playing skittles, dressing up, play dough, collecting leaves for printing and feeding the ducks in the park. Planning is linked to children's interests and children regularly experience the outdoor environment at all times of year and in all weathers. They enjoy going on the train together, visiting the farm and safari park and spontaneously taking a trip to the beach to play with their diggers in the sand.

Detailed individual records are in place however next steps are not clearly identified as children work towards the early learning goals. There is an effective

balance of adult led and child initiated activities and warm, supportive relationships are evident as children are comfortable and settled in the company of the childminder and visitors. Children play independently on the floor pushing cars along and walking aided by a ride on toy car. The childminder involves all children in painting activities offering hand and finger painting with printing using the wheels of cars, however younger children have limited opportunities to take part in exploratory and sensory play.

The setting is warm, welcoming and children enjoy learning through play, growing in confidence in themselves and in their relationships with others. Children tidy away together with the support of the childminder, counting bricks and identifying colours as they place each brick in the bag. The childminder maintains active conversations with children, repeating words, offering encouragement and giving children time to think about responses. Parents praise the new words and phrases that children have learnt since joining the setting and the friendly nature of the childminder. Relationships between children are promoted well and children responding to the positive role model that the childminder provides by spontaneously praising each others achievements. The childminder supports children to slot the pieces of the train track together and offers praise and encouragement as each piece is positioned. Children explore feelings by drawing and looking at different facial expressions on balloons. Sharing and turn taking is encouraged as children use pens to draw a train track on a mat for the train to follow.

Children talk about the weather whilst enjoying eating their snack together at the table. Choosing cards offer children the choice of banana or apple and the childminder ensures that all children are included in this social time. Healthy and nutritious meals and snacks are offered and the childminder has recently completed a food hygiene qualification. Safety is reinforced through daily routine and children have recently attended child safety week at the local children's centre. Environmental prompts remind children of good hygiene practice such as flushing the toilet and washing their hands.

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?	3
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	3
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	3

Leadership and management

How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?	3
How effective is the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement?	3
How well does the setting work in partnership with parents and others?	3
How well are children safeguarded?	2

Quality and standards

How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?	3
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?	3

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:

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:

- provide written statements of complaints procedures and share them with parents 23/02/2009

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 above 23/02/2009

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.

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.