

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY369720
Inspection date	29/07/2009
Inspector	Hilary Mary Mckenning
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 has been registered since 2008. She lives with her partner and two children near Barnsley. They are close to local amenities, shops and schools. Children have access to the lounge, dining kitchen and bathroom facilities on the ground floor. Children also have access to an enclosed garden to the rear for outdoor play. The childminder may care for five children under eight years old at anyone time. She provides care Monday to Friday, throughout the year. She is currently caring for one child in the early years age group. The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and both parts of the Childcare Register.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall, the quality of the provision is satisfactory. The childminder recognises the importance of continuous improvement, and is beginning to use a self evaluation system to monitor and evaluate her service. Children's sense of belonging is fostered appropriately through the welcoming and secure environment. Children are valued and encouraged to take part in a range of activities that are age and stage appropriate, and where they can learn about themselves and explore differences. However, there is insufficient evidence to show how children's progression is assessed and how the childminder plan's for the children's next steps. Close partnership with parents and the flexible support to parents varying work patterns help children to feel safe.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- further develop complaints procedure to include required detail
- plan and provide a range of experience and activities which are appropriate to to each child's stage of development as they progress towards the early learning goals
- further develop observations and assessments to identify children next steps in their learning and development
- further develop resources and children's access to activities that reflect diversity.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder has a positive relationship with children and their parents, and information are shared daily through the use of a daily diary. Parents are invited to contribute what they know about their child's needs and interests. This enables childminder to meet the individual needs of children and follow their routines.

Children are happy and enjoy their time with the childminder, which contributes to their well-being. The childminder has an appropriate understanding of her role in

safeguarding children. She is aware of the procedure to follow for reporting any concerns she may have about a child in her care. Most of the required records, policies and procedures are implemented and shared with parents to promote children's welfare, although the complaints policy does not contain some of the necessary information. The childminder carries out a daily health and safety check to ensure the environment is secure and free from hazards. There are appropriate routines in place that promote good hygiene and protect children's health.

The childminder is enthusiastic and is beginning to develop the use of self evaluation to monitor the service she offers, and has identified areas of training to improve her practice. Children are warmly welcomed into a secure and safe environment. The childminder is aware of her responsibility and completes daily health and safety checks.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The childminder is developing an understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage framework, and is beginning to make observations of children's achievements. However, these are not linked to the early years framework and do not clearly identify the next step's in children's learning and development to inform planning. Space is organised appropriately and children readily move around both the indoor and outdoor space. Children carefully manoeuvre ride on cars and trundle toys around the garden. Younger children persevere with their throwing and catching skills as they join in a ball game with older children. The childminder is aware of children interests and provides a range of activities they enjoy. For example, they excitedly arrange the farm animals and transport them around the area, counting the number of times the tractor goes around the farm. The childminder gets to know children well and spends time playing and talking with them. Children recall when they went 'pond dipping' and collected tadpoles. Children regularly visit places of interests such as the farm and local play areas. However, children have limited access to resources and activities that reflect diversity.

Children are beginning to adopt healthy habits as they follow appropriate hygiene routines and enjoy healthy snacks and drinks. Children's dietary needs are met well because the childminder works with parents to record and all relevant information. She takes positive steps to reduce the risk of cross infection, and children follow good hygiene as they readily wash their hands at appropriate times, such as, after feeding the fish and after playing outside.

Children make a positive contribution by becoming involved in all areas of play. Children are encouraged to share, be kind and have mutual respect for others. Older children help younger children when trying to catch the ball, showing how to put their hands together when playing a game of catch. There is the opportunity for children to explore the immediate environment with interest, building on their natural curiosity as they feed the gold fish in the pond. Children have regular opportunities to enjoy the outdoors and good use is made of local outdoor facilities.

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?	3

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?	3
How well are children helped to stay safe?	3
How well are children helped to be healthy?	3
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	3
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	3
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:	Met
---	-----

The provider confirms that the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register are:	Met
--	-----