

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY375879
Inspection date	22/01/2009
Inspector	Sharon, Amelia Robson
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 has been registered since 2008 and lives with her husband and two sons aged two and six years. They live in a residential area of Killingworth, North Tyneside. The property is within walking distance to local schools, nurseries, parks and the library. Children have access to the whole of the ground floor, the first floor bathroom and the two children's bedrooms. There is an enclosed rear garden available for outdoor play. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children under eight years and is registered on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. She currently has two children on roll in the early years range.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The childminder is very supportive in helping children make good progress in their learning and development. She is very committed to providing a very inclusive environment where all children are valued and have their individual needs met. She encourages children to develop a positive attitude to difference and diversity from the very positive role model she provides. Children experience a wide range of stimulating activities, which take into account their interests and specific needs. The childminder has a very good capacity to improve and evaluate the service she provides. Detailed written observation, monitoring and assessment records and procedures are in place and very good links have been made with other services used by minded children.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- involve parents as part of the ongoing observation and assessment process to identify children's learning and development starting points.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

Effective and detailed written policies and procedures are in place, including written parental consents for seeking emergency medical treatment, which ensures children are appropriately safeguarded. All documentation and records are very well organised and confidentially maintained. Children's safety is given high priority and they are supervised at all times. Risk assessments are detailed, looking at potential hazards and measures that are in place. They take into account both the indoor and outdoor environment, including outings, which ensures that hazards for children are minimised. The childminder has attended child protection training and as a result she has a secure understanding of her role in ensuring children are safeguarded.

The childminder is very proactive in ensuring her knowledge regarding children's

learning and development is sound and as a result she has attended a number of relevant training courses to enhance this. She has good knowledge of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and has completed her self-assessment in order to develop her strengths and improve any weaknesses.

Partnership with parents is extremely strong, as the childminder values their contributions and keeps them well informed about all aspects of their children's development and achievements. For example, the childminder has provided parents with questionnaires to ensure they are happy with the service she is providing and she has had very positive comments from them. She uses information from parents to ensure learning opportunities are provided that meet each child's individual needs, however, children's starting points are not discussed at the onset of a placement. Children's development files, daily diaries and photographs are shared with parents, alongside discussions about activities and topics children are involved in, which enables parents to support their children's learning and development at home. The childminder has made very good links with other services used by the minded children, for example, she is working alongside one of the services to celebrate Chinese new year with the children.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The childminder has very good systems in place to ensure children make good progress across all areas of learning. She uses detailed observation and assessment records which are linked to the EYFS to monitor and record children's progress and to identify their next steps of learning. She plans and adapts activities according to children's individual needs and to ensure each child reaches their full potential. Flexible plans are in place to allow the childminder to respond to children's interests and to ensure children are happy and engaged in their learning and play. Children are able to make their own choices, as there is a very good balance of adult-led and child-led activities. The childminder interacts very well with the children, as she spends time playing with them and ensuring she takes every opportunity to help children develop their skills and learning. For example, while playing with the small world hospital she asks the children to find certain people and talks about why a man had a bandage on his head. Also when colouring pictures the children are encouraged to name colours and shapes.

Children make very good progress in their social skills and confidence, as they have regular opportunities to attend local toddler groups. They also participate in outdoor and physical activities regularly, including walks to the lake and using the very well resourced outdoor area. Children visit the local library and have opportunities to choose their own books, and get involved in 'story time'. Children use play telephones, a computer and tools and have access to a very wide range of books and resources that show positive images of diversity and difference. As well as celebrating cultural festivals and events, for example, children had the opportunity to taste various Chinese foods at snack time and have plans to visit 'China Town' to celebrate the festival.

Good health and well-being are promoted as the childminder uses her detailed information on children's dietary needs appropriately. There are comprehensive

written health and welfare policies and procedures in place, including a detailed sick child policy, all of which are shared with parents. Hygiene procedures are promoted as children are encouraged to wash their hands at appropriate times. Healthy and nutritious meals and snacks are provided and children have regular baking sessions with the childminder. Children have good knowledge of safety while in the home and when out and about the childminder discusses how to stay safe when crossing the road. The children also have places on a 'Beep Beep' day, where they will learn more about road safety.

Children are extremely happy and settled in the childminder's home. She is very responsive to their needs and ensures they feel comfortable and secure while in her care. Children are very well behaved, have very good manners and respond very well to the childminder's routines and boundaries. They are happy to help with tidying up and respond well to praise and encouragement.

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

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
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The provider confirms that the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register are:	Met
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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 since registration.

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.