

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	309879
Inspection date	06/01/2009
Inspector	Cathryn Parry

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 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 1991. She lives with her husband and adult son in the residential area of Wallsend in North Tyneside. The childminder's home is accessed by two steps. The whole of the ground floor and the bathroom on the first floor of the childminder's home is used for childminding. The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. She is registered to care for a maximum of six children aged under eight years at any one time. The childminder also cares for children aged over eight years. There are currently five children on roll. Of these, one is in the early years age range. The childminder cares for children on weekdays from 07.30 to 18.00 during term time and arranged weeks during the school holidays. She has completed a relevant training course and holds a current paediatric first aid certificate. The childminder takes and collects children from the local school and attends the local parent and toddler group.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The childminder offers a warm welcome to all children and their families. She provides a wide range of activities and experiences to enable all children to make progress. The childminder demonstrates a very positive attitude to providing an inclusive environment. This includes being very willing to liaise with other professionals and attend relevant training. The childminder is continually improving the care and education she provides. This results in her creating a stimulating, homely environment for children to learn in, whilst having fun.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- further develop the recording of children's learning and development.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder effectively evaluates the service she provides, including asking parents for their views. This results in her attending relevant training and accessing toys and resources to meet individual children's needs and interests. The recommendation raised at the previous inspection has been positively addressed, resulting in the bathroom window being made safe.

The childminder has built good relationships with parents. She ensures they are fully informed of activities their children have participated in, by talking to them on a daily basis. This is complemented with individual files being collated, which include written observations, photographs and art work. Consequently, parents can follow their children's interests highlighted by the childminder within their own home, to further promote learning. The childminder does not currently care for a

child in the early years age range who attends another setting providing the Early Years Foundation Stage. However, she shows a very positive attitude to liaising with other provisions to ensure continuity of care.

The childminder has attended safeguarding training and demonstrates a sound understanding of associated issues. This includes having a written procedure in place and easily accessible contact numbers, should she need to make a referral. Consequently, children are very well safeguarded. Written risk assessments are implemented effectively to reduce the risk of accidental injury well.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The wide range of resources and opportunities to visit an array of places of interest ensures each of the areas of learning is covered very well. The childminder has long term planning in place, which covers a variety of themes. These are flexible and are supplemented with short term plans to follow children's interests. Consequently, children enjoy their time with the childminder whilst making progress. Daily observations are recorded for each of the children in the early years age range, which the childminder uses to inform future planning. However, these are not linked to the early learning goals, which makes it more difficult to track progress in each area. A very good balance of child-centred and adult-led experiences ensures appropriate challenge for their age and stage of development. The childminder's positive attitude to equal opportunities ensures children have a good awareness of the wider community, for instance when celebrating Diwali. Children's social skills are effectively promoted as they sit together for meals and play with others at the parent and toddler group. They become familiar with the written word as they enjoy playing games with letters of the alphabet, as well as sharing books with the childminder. She is sensitive to the needs of babies and younger children, responding to them by using appropriate tone and facial expression. Consequently, they are settled and interact well with her. Children have a growing understanding of the world that they live in through a variety of well planned and spontaneous activities. An example of this is where they watch the birds in the garden. They enjoy a range of creative activities, such as colouring, creating spider's webs out of paper and making refrigerator magnets. Consequently, these effectively promote self-expression. The childminder is enthusiastic and activities are undertaken with a sense of fun.

Ample opportunities are provided for children to enjoy physical activity. These include visiting the beach, using large climbing equipment in the park and practising yoga. The childminder fosters good personal hygiene practices, for instance, by encouraging hand washing before eating or preparing food. Children partake in a range of health related activities, including devising their own healthy eating game and making place mats with pictures of fruit and vegetables on. Parents can choose if they wish to provide the food for their children, alternatively the childminder prepares nutritious meals. Consequently, any specific requirements are effectively met. Children do not attend if they are sick, which effectively reduces the risk of cross infection. All relevant documentation with regard to health, including specific dietary needs and consent forms are in place and up to date. These positively safeguard children's well-being. Children are kept very safe

as the childminder's home is secure at all times. This is supplemented with effective procedures for adults collecting children. All safety equipment is in place. Consequently, the risk of accidental injury is reduced. This is complemented by fire evacuation procedures being practised, which are then logged. Children are cared for in a well-maintained environment, where they can freely explore regularly cleaned toys and equipment. The childminder uses a positive and consistent approach to managing behaviour, which takes into account children's understanding and maturity. Consequently, they are effectively learning right from wrong.

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

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

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 the last inspection.

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.