

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY103927
Inspection date	09/12/2008
Inspector	Sharon Greener

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 2002. She lives with her two children, one adult daughter and a son aged nine years. They live in the residential area of Dawdon, Seaham, County Durham. The childminder's home is accessed by a ground level path. The whole of the ground floor, except the ground floor bedroom of the childminder's home is used for childminding. The childminder is registered on the Early Years, Compulsory Childcare and Voluntary Childcare Registers. She is registered to care for a maximum of four children aged under eight years. There are two children on roll both aged two years. The childminder cares for children on weekdays from 07.30 to 18.00 for 51 weeks of the year. She has completed a relevant training course and holds a current paediatric first aid certificate. The childminder takes and collects children from the local schools and attends the local parent and toddler group. The family has a pet cockatiel.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The childminder offers a very warm and welcoming environment to all children and their families and children are acknowledged and valued as individuals. She demonstrates a good knowledge of the Early Years Foundation Stage. She shows commitment to the improvement of her service and her own personal development which is demonstrated through her willingness to access regular training and the effective assessment of the care and education provided. The childminder shows a very positive attitude to providing an inclusive environment. She liaises effectively with parents and fosters beneficial links with other professionals, such as teachers, in order to meet children's individual needs.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- further develop written risk assessment procedure for outings.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder reviews her practice and targets elements for improvement very well. The vast majority of documentation required to effectively support the service provided is in place and is very well organised. For example, she has a very good understanding of the management and recording of complaints. Good risk assessment procedures are in place regarding indoor and outdoor environments. However, those relating to outings are not all specific to individual venues. Security within the home is very well maintained and appropriate safety equipment is in place. Resources and equipment are checked frequently to ensure they remain safe and in very good order. The childminder supervises children closely. She has a very good knowledge of policies and procedures and uses them effectively to promote children's welfare. The childminder shows a clear understanding of the

action to be taken to safeguard children from harm and has completed relevant training. The recommended child protection literature and contact details for the Local Safeguarding Children Board are available for reference purposes.

Documentation outlining the policies and procedures used and the service provided is shared effectively with parents and they receive their own copies. The childminder works in harmony with parents to gradually introduce children into her care. Several visits are used to allow them to become familiar with her, her family and home. Consequently, children settle very well. Pertinent information is obtained from parents regarding children's individual needs and preferences. The childminder monitors and records developmental information for younger children in the 'Moving On' files. She uses this information effectively to establish a very good understanding of children's individual abilities and stages of development. Through this she is able to identify the next steps in children's learning very well. This allows her to plan a wide variety of appropriate activities and learning experiences to positively promote and enhance each child's development. Parents are kept very well informed of their children's progress, day-to-day activities, and events. This is achieved through a combination of verbal feedback and access to their children's developmental records. Parents are encouraged to contribute towards their child's developmental tracking records and to support their child's learning at home. The childminder has forged links with staff in local schools and speaks to teacher to glean relevant information to enable them to work together to mutually support children's learning and development.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The childminder has a good understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage. She plans and evaluates activities effectively to ensure children make very good progress towards the early learning goals. The well organised space provides children with easy access to a broad selection of resources and allows them to make choices and self-select activities. This nurtures their decision-making and independence skills. For example, a young child thoroughly enjoyed making Christmas paper-chains with decorative paper and glue and imaginative role play with a doll and a buggy. Children benefit from a very good balance of adult-led activities and child-initiated play. The childminder initiates activities, such as story telling, baking and a range of additional creative activities.

Children's physical development is very well promoted and the childminder acknowledges the benefit children gain from fresh air and exercise. For example, they regularly visit local parks, the beach, children's play areas, soft-play facilities and go for walks. This helps to promote children's physical development and well-being. Younger children attend playgroup where they access additional play experiences and interact with peers. The childminder readily recognises and praises children's abilities and achievements so as to promote and nurture their confidence and positive self-esteem. She builds very warm, close relationships with children. Consequently, children are happy and contented in her care.

The childminder shows a very good understanding of equal opportunities and understands the importance of raising children's awareness of diversity and the

wider world. Children have access to a suitable selection of resources and activities to help promote their awareness of diversity and to nurture positive attitudes. The childminder demonstrates a good awareness of how to support children with learning difficulties, disabilities and those with English as an additional language. She recognises the importance of liaising with parents and other professionals to ensure children's needs are very well met. Children are very well supported and sufficiently challenged and are able to take part in a variety of activities at their own pace and level. Children's behaviour is managed effectively and consistently through the use of age appropriate strategies. They respond positively to this and are very well behaved.

The childminder has a clear understanding of health related policies and procedures. Children are encouraged to adopt suitable, personal, hygiene practices. Hygiene standards throughout the home are very well maintained. Healthy eating is encouraged and menus are discussed with parents. Meals and snacks provided are varied and nutritious. Fresh drinking water and suitable drinks are available to children throughout the day. The childminder speaks to children about the rules in place, such as, road safety, not approaching strangers or touching animals and the correct use of resources. She gives children gentle reminders when needed to reinforce such boundaries. This helps to raise their awareness of safety matters and the need to preserve their safety and that of others.

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.