

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY383908
Inspection date	14/01/2009
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, she lives with her husband and two children aged six and three years. They live in a residential area of Whitley Bay, North Tyneside, which is close to local schools, parks, shops and transport links. Children have access to the lounge, kitchen and children's bedroom. The bathroom is also on the ground floor and there is an enclosed garden available for outdoor play. The property is accessed by one low step at the entrance to the apartment block. The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and on the compulsory part of the Childcare Register. At present she is caring for four children on a part-time basis. The family have a cat. The childminder has a level 3 childcare qualification.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The childminder provides children with excellent support to enable them to make very good progress in their learning and development. She is extremely committed to providing an inclusive environment where all children are valued and respected, and where every child's individual needs are met. They are also encouraged to develop a positive attitude to difference and diversity from the extremely positive role model provided by the childminder. They experience an extremely wide range of stimulating and exciting activities, which take into account children's likes, interests and specific needs. The childminder has a great capacity to improve the service she provides, as she regularly evaluates her practice, including reviewing and updating her comprehensive policies and procedures and completing her self-evaluation form. She has put into place detailed and comprehensive written observation, monitoring and assessment procedures and has made excellent links with other services used by the minded children.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

To further improve the high quality early years provision the registered person should consider:

- continue to expand resources promoting positive attitudes towards disability.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

Children are safeguarded effectively, as detailed and comprehensive written policies and procedures are in place, including written parental consents for seeking emergency treatment and administering medication. All policies and procedure are reviewed and updated regularly. All documentation and records are extremely well organised and confidentially maintained. Children's safety is given the highest priority. Risk assessments are extremely detailed and take into account both the indoor and outdoor environment, including outings. These are updated as

and when necessary, for example, the childminder has made changes to her risk assessment for a regular outing due to ongoing road works. The childminder has an excellent understanding of her role in safeguarding children in her care, she has completed training and is about to complete an advanced course. She has comprehensive policies and procedures in place and she shares these with parents.

The childminder is extremely proactive in ensuring her knowledge regarding children's learning and development is sound and as a result is attending relevant training courses to enhance this. She has also completed a National Vocational Qualification level 3 course in learning and development. She has an excellent understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and has taken time to complete her self-assessment in order to develop her strengths and improve any weaknesses.

Partnerships with parents are extremely strong, as the childminder values their contributions and keeps them very well informed about all aspects of their children's developments and achievements. Detailed information from parents is effectively used in planning and to ensure learning opportunities are provided that meet children's individual needs. The childminder also provides parents with questionnaires to ensure they are happy with the service she provides. Parents made extremely positive comments about the childminder and the care she is providing for their children. Children's 'learning journals', daily diaries and photographs are shared with parents, alongside discussions about activities, achievements and topics children are involved in, enabling parents to support their children's learning and development at home. The childminder has made excellent links with other services used by minded children, for example, she had the opportunity to look at a child's nursery development file before her placement began.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The childminder has excellent systems in place to ensure children make good progress across all areas of learning. She has comprehensive observation and assessment records to monitor and record children's progress, which are linked to the EYFS and used to identify their next steps for 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 each child is happy and engaged in their learning and play. Children are able to make their own choices, as there is a very good balance between adult-led and child-led activities. The childminder interacts extremely well with the minded children, ensuring she takes every opportunity to help children develop their skills. For example, when a child is playing with the play dough she talks about the shapes and colours of cutters and textures of the dough. There is also lots of discussion about the frosty weather.

Children make excellent progress in their social skills and confidence, as they have regular opportunities to attend local toddler groups. They also regularly participate in outdoor activities, including visits to the park, as well as using the well resourced outdoor space. Children visit the library where they have opportunities to choose

their own books, listen to stories and use the computers. The childminder ensures all the children have this opportunity and encourages the youngest minded child to play with the keyboard and mouse. Children have opportunities to participate in cookery sessions and they are able to visit the local shops to buy their ingredients. The childminder provides children opportunities to learn about the wider world with a wide range of books and resources, as well as celebrating cultural festivals and events. Children are able to watch programmes about children with disabilities, however, only a few books are available.

Good health and well-being are being promoted very well, as the childminder uses her detailed information on children's dietary and health needs appropriately. There are extremely 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 time, for example, children know to wash their hands after stroking the family cat. Healthy and nutritious meals and snacks are provided and the childminder takes opportunities to talk to children about healthy foods whilst shopping for ingredients for cookery sessions. They also play games of finding the healthy foods amongst the play food. Children have very good knowledge of safety while in the home and when out and about with the childminder, and she takes time to discuss how to cross the road safely with all the children.

Children are extremely happy and settled in the childminder's home. She is very responsive, kind and patient with children and ensures they feel comfortable and secure. Children are very well behaved, have very good manners and respond extremely well to the childminder's routines and boundaries. They are happy to help with tidying up and respond extremely 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?	1
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	1
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	1

Leadership and management

How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?	1
How effective is the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement?	1
How well does the setting work in partnership with parents and others?	1
How well are children safeguarded?	1

Quality and standards

How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?	1
How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?	1
How well are children helped to stay safe?	1
How well are children helped to be healthy?	1
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	1
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?	1

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

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.