

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	312429
Inspection date	18/01/2011
Inspector	Lindsey Pollock

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 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.

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Description of the childminding

The childminder was registered in 1986. She lives in Whitburn, Sunderland, with her husband and her adult daughter. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's home is used for childminding and there is a garden for outside play. The childminder is registered by Ofsted 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, of whom no more than three may be in the early years age range. There are currently three children on roll in this age group who attend on a part time basis. She also provides care for her grandchild. The childminder cares for children Monday to Thursday, all year round.

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is satisfactory.

The childminder is experienced in childcare. She values children as individuals and provides a warm, welcoming environment where they feel safe, happy and cared for. A varied range of activities are provided which helps children to make sound progress in their learning and development. Positive relationships are in place with parents, although procedures to share information about children's learning are not fully established. Some systems for self-evaluation are in place and demonstrate the childminder's capacity for continual improvement to promote better outcomes for children.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- further develop systems for observation and assessments for all children in the Early Years Foundation Stage so their progress can be tracked and the information used to inform future planning
- fully establish procedures for sharing information regarding children's learning with their parents
- practise the emergency evacuation procedures with children to raise their understanding of what to do should an incident occur.

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder sees the safety of children as priority. She has a sound understanding of how to implement the procedures for child protection and of her responsibilities in this area. Checks have been completed for all household members over 16 years of age to ensure they are suitable to be in regular contact with children. Thorough risk assessments are conducted on her home. Written details are kept of any potential risks to children and the steps she takes to reduce

these. For example, locks are fitted on cupboards where harmful substances are stored and a fireguard prevents children's access to the fire. Records of risk assessments for outings are also kept. The childminder is trained in first aid and keeps the required records for accidents and administered medication. The childminder has failed to comply with the requirement to notify Ofsted of a serious incident involving a child in her care. This is an offence unless the provider gives a reasonable excuse. However, in this instance the childminder followed the correct procedures to safeguard the child and every other aspect of this incident was managed appropriately. As a result the impact on children's well-being is minimal.

Some systems are in place to evaluate practice so that improvements can be made. For example, she has verbal discussions with parents about the provision and makes changes where necessary. The childminder has satisfactorily addressed the recommendations raised at the previous inspection, for example, parents now countersign records of administered medication to help safeguard children. Children thrive in a setting where they are valued and included. The childminder knows the children well and meets their individual needs successfully. Toys are plentiful and in good condition. These include resources to help children begin to understand the similarities and differences between them in a diverse society. Space is used appropriately and children have room to move around and play.

Positive relationships are in place with parents and grandparents. The childminder shares information verbally about the care of their child. However, effective procedures to share information with parents about their children's learning are not fully in place. The childminder is fully aware of the benefits of partnerships with other providers delivering the Early Years Foundation Stage and the importance of developing links when this is appropriate.

The quality and standards of the early years provision and outcomes for children

Children are happy in the childminder's care and develop trusting relationships with both her and her husband. There is a lovely relaxed homely atmosphere with lots of affection and children approach the childminder for cuddles and reassurance. The childminder has a satisfactory awareness of the learning and development requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage and provides a suitable range of activities, which are developmentally appropriate and contribute towards children's future economic well-being. She has started to complete some written observations of children's development, but the information gained is not fully used to assess their progress towards the early learning goals or to plan for children's next steps.

Children generally play alongside each other well with support from the childminder. They are beginning to learn about the importance of sharing and taking turns. Mealtimes are used as an opportunity to promote children's social skills and they sit together with the childminder at the table to eat their food. The childminder provides opportunities to develop children's communication and language skills. For example, she chats to them as they play, repeating words back

so they hear correct pronunciation and asks them questions to make them think. The children are enthusiastic singers and enjoy a variety of music. For example, children's songs such as 'Row row row your boat' screaming when they see the crocodile and also favourite pop songs. The childminder and her husband join in which the children love. Children are developing an early understanding about number, shape and colour, as they build with different colour bricks and successfully play with shape sorters. They enjoy books and are regular visitors to the library where they join in with story and rhyme sessions. Attendance at community groups including the nearby children's centre extends children's learning opportunities and provides opportunities to socialise with other children.

The childminder provides healthy snacks and meals to promote children's growth and development. They are encouraged to drink plenty to keep refreshed and hydrated and cups of juice are to hand so children can help themselves. Good standards of hygiene are maintained throughout all childminding areas to help keep children healthy. Children are well supervised as they play and equipment, such as, reins and wrist straps are used to ensure their safety when out walking. Although the childminder is confident that she can evacuate the premises quickly and safely she has not practised this with the children so they are aware of what to do should an incident occur.

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

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

How well does the setting meet the needs of the children in the Early Years Foundation Stage?	3
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement	3

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the Early Years Foundation Stage	3
The effectiveness of leadership and management in embedding ambition and driving improvement	3
The effectiveness with which the setting deploys resources	3
The effectiveness with which the setting promotes equality and diversity	3
The effectiveness of safeguarding	3
The effectiveness of the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement	3
The effectiveness of partnerships	3
The effectiveness of the setting's engagement with parents and carers	3

The quality of the provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage

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Outcomes for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage

Outcomes for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage	3
The extent to which children achieve and enjoy their learning	3
The extent to which children feel safe	3
The extent to which children adopt healthy lifestyles	3
The extent to which children make a positive contribution	3
The extent to which children develop skills for the future	3

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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