

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	300055
Inspection date	30/04/2009
Inspector	Sarah Gilpin
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 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 1992. She lives in Sheffield in a house that is close to shops, parks, schools and public transport links. The whole of the ground floor of the home is used for childminding, with toilet facilities on the first floor. There is a secure garden for outdoor play. The childminder has a dog and a number of rabbits.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children under eight years at any one time, of whom no more than three may be in the early years age range. She is currently minding three children in this age group. She also offers care to children aged over five years to 11 years. This provision is registered by Ofsted on the Early Years Register and compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. Care is provided between 06.30 and 18.30, Monday to Friday, throughout the year.

The childminder collects children from the local schools and nurseries and attends play and toddler groups on a regular basis. She is a member of the local childminding group and the National Childminding Association. She receives support from the local authority.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall, the quality of the provision is satisfactory. The children are cared for in an environment that is organised to ensure they can play independently with the toys available, which helps them to make steady progress. The childminder has very recently implemented a system for observing what the children do in order to plan for future learning, although this is in the earliest stages of development. All children are welcomed into the setting, most of the systems in place promote their welfare and their individual needs are well catered for. The childminder has developed links with the local nurseries and schools and has positive partnerships with the children's parents and carers. She demonstrates a commitment to improving her service by addressing the recommendations from the last inspection; however, there is limited reflection and self-evaluation on the provision.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- make sure that records kept for accidents, medication and incidents are maintained in line with data protection and promote confidentiality
- consider ways to improve the routine for nappy changing to ensure that risks from cross contamination are minimised and good hygiene is promoted.

To fully meet the specific requirements of the EYFS, the registered person must:

- conduct a risk assessment and review it regularly, at 14/05/2009

least once a year or more frequently where the need arises (Suitable premises, environment and equipment)

- undertake sensitive observational assessment in order to plan to meet young children's individual needs (Organisation)
- keep a record of the risk assessment clearly stating when it was carried out, by whom, date of review and any action taken following a review or incident (Documentation).

14/05/2009

14/05/2009

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder has a limited range of policies and procedures, which are generally implemented to ensure she maintains the health and safety of the children in her care. She has a clear understanding of how to keep children safe both on outings and when in the premises. She has documents with which to conduct risk assessments, however, to date she has not carried out or recorded any such assessments. There are systems for recording accidents, administration of medication and incidents and these are shared with parents. However, the format of the records means that confidentiality cannot always be maintained.

The childminder has attended training to develop her knowledge and understanding of the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. She has completed safeguarding training and demonstrates a sound knowledge of the signs and symptoms of abuse and neglect and a clear understanding of what she should do if concerns were raised about a child in her care. The childminder has given some thought to what she does well with the children, however, she has not fully engaged in the self-evaluation process to identify areas for development.

There are positive relationships with parents and carers and information about the children's achievements and their day is exchanged as the children arrive and depart. The childminder seeks relevant information from the parents to ensure that she can meet their welfare, learning and development needs. She collects children from the local nursery and school. She has established links to find out what these are planning for the children in order to ensure she complements their provision.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children are happy, well settled and confident in the care of the childminder. There is a suitable range of equipment and resources, which are set out safely for them to independently access. Resources are selected to suit the age and stage of the children's development, as well as their interests and are rotated on a regular basis. The young children enjoy exploring items that make noises and interact. They show delight when the baby doll starts to make gurgling sounds as they cuddle it. Children's communication skills are encouraged by the childminder who talks to the children as they play. She provides a structured routine that includes

free play and planned creative play opportunities. The childminder utilises the local library to extend the range of books she provides. She is currently borrowing dual language books to share with the children to develop their understanding of other languages and scripts.

The childminder has very recently implemented a system to observe what the children know and can do. However, this is in the earliest stages of development and does not clearly show assessment of the stage of development of the children or identify the next steps in their learning. The childminder knows many of the different aspects in the areas of learning and provides activities and play experiences that support children's learning.

The home is maintained to a suitable standard and food preparation areas are kept clean and tidy. The childminder demonstrates an understanding of what constitutes a healthy and nutritious diet. She provides snacks for children, which include fresh fruit and water. Parents provide their own food for the children and this is stored appropriately. The childminder has suitable equipment for hygienic nappy changing, however, she admits to changing nappies across her knee, which means children are at risk from cross contamination. There are many opportunities for the children to play outside in the fresh air and they walk to and from school and take advantage of the local park. Children are helped to develop their awareness of personal safety through discussions about road safety as they walk. Fire safety precautions are in place and there is a clear system for evacuating the premises should the need arise. In addition, one child has made fire exits signs for the doors, which are displayed at either end of the home.

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?	3
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	3
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	3

Leadership and management

How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?	3
How effective is the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement?	3
How well does the setting work in partnership with parents and others?	3
How well are children safeguarded?	3

Quality and standards

How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?	3
How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?	3
How well are children helped to stay safe?	3
How well are children helped to be healthy?	3
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	3
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	3
How well are children helped develop skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being?	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:

Not Met (with actions)

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

Not Met (with actions)

The registered provider does not meet the requirements of the compulsory and or voluntary part/s of the Childcare Register.

To comply with the requirements of the compulsory part of the Childcare Register, the registered person must take the following action/s by the specified date:

- keep and implement a written statement of procedures to be followed for the protection of children, intended to safeguard the children being cared for from abuse or neglect (CR2.1) (also applies to the voluntary part of the Childcare Register)

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To comply with the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register, the registered person must take the following action/s by the specified date:

- take action as specified above/in the voluntary Childcare Register section of the report (CR2.1)

14/05/2009