

## Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique reference number</b>	300187
<b>Inspection date</b>	22/10/2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Geneen Yvonne Hulse-Brown
<b>Type of setting</b>	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 1985. She lives with her family in a semi-detached property in Sheffield. Local schools, shops and parks are within walking distance. The childminder has three adult children and a son aged 15 years.

Children have access to all downstairs rooms including the kitchen, dining room, lounge and conservatory, with upstairs access to the bathroom, toilet and two bedrooms for sleeping. There is a fully enclosed area to the rear of the property for outdoor play. Premises are accessible via a small step to the front door.

The childminder is registered for the care of six children under the age of eight years and is presently caring for five children in the early years age group and seven children in the later years age group. The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register, compulsory part of the Childcare Register and voluntary part of the Childcare Register.

The childminder is actively involved with her local childminder support group and meets regularly with fellow childminders. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

## **Overall effectiveness of the early years provision**

The childminder's excellent knowledge of the children in her care ensures that she plans a wealth of activities that stimulate and challenge them. She uses many opportunities tailored to the individual child, to introduce fresh experiences, extend their independence and help them develop new skills. Partnership with parents contributes effectively to ensuring that individual children's needs are well met. Comprehensive assessments of the provision demonstrate the childminder's good understanding of her strengths and areas for improvement.

## **What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?**

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

- continue to build upon the links established with other settings providing for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage
- continue to review policies and procedures to meet changes to requirements.

## **The leadership and management of the early years provision**

The childminder's excellent awareness of the Early Years Foundation Stage framework enables her to complete extensive observations and plan stimulating activities for all minded children. A major strength of the setting is the childminder's extensive use of self-evaluation, clearly identifying her practice,

highlighting areas for improvement and accurately reporting on progress since her last inspection. The childminder's attendance on short courses and use of the library and internet consolidate her knowledge and understanding.

Well-established, purposeful relationships with parents and carers ensure consistent and effective sharing of children's progress and achievements. They receive a well-detailed handbook containing policies, procedures, contracts and all required completed permission forms. Outcome-based questionnaires provide extensive information about the children, establishing an excellent rapport to support their learning and development. Innovative children's individual development logs contain a wide range of information, complemented by scrapbooks with photographs of children enjoying numerous activities and examples of their work. They are meticulously completed by the childminder with observations and achievements and clearly identify the next steps in the learning process. These extensive records are shared with parents regularly to ensure a consistent approach to children's care, learning and development.

The childminder is an active member of the local childminder support network, meeting regularly with fellow childminders to review and develop their practice. She is developing a strong working relationship with the local pre-school to ensure they share information about children, working together to provide effective support. Younger children do not attend other provisions at this time and therefore systems are not yet established to show how they will complement each other to support children's all-round development.

Children are well protected, as the childminder is very experienced and has a strong understanding of her role and responsibilities in safeguarding children. A comprehensive range of policies and procedures are consistently shared with parents and effectively support working practice. These are under review as they do not all reflect the Early Years Foundation Stage framework.

## **The quality and standards of the early years provision**

Children enthusiastically enjoy an extensive range of fun and stimulating experiences, as they play together in an inspiring environment. Imaginatively planned routines and activities follow children's individual needs and ideas. Freely accessible resources throughout the home allow them numerous opportunities to make active choices and decisions. Children help themselves to favourite toys, asking for help to find ones they cannot see, such as the snakes and ladders game. The childminder sits with the children on the floor as she plays with them, successfully supporting them to develop new skills and extend their thinking. Excellent activities based on all areas of learning effectively promote children's learning and development. Children enthusiastically enjoy number, as they count how many cars and trains on the track, using early problem-solving skills to think about why the train has broken down and how they can mend it. Children listen intently to stories, extending their vocabulary, as they chatter together and to their childminder. They confidently approach visitors, including them in their play and showing them what they are doing with pride.

Children's physical development and understanding of their environment flourish as they investigate indoors and outdoors with increasing motivation. They enjoy numerous outings to the park, woods and further afield to see the farm animals and explore climbing equipment. Children demonstrate high levels of self-esteem, as they receive consistent praise and encouragement from their childminder. They are valued and respected, as they are learning how to manage their own behaviour, share and take turns. Exceptional photographic evidence clearly shows children's progress and achievements.

Children's health and well-being are promoted successfully as the childminder talks to children about healthy eating and foods that are good for them. They enjoy fruit flakes for snack and help themselves to drinks when thirsty. The childminder completes regular risk assessments to ensure a safe and secure environment for children. She sensitively reminds the children to take care when climbing and negotiating the stairs with increasing confidence, using language appropriate to their ages and understanding.

## Annex A: record of inspection judgements

### The key inspection judgements and what they mean

*Outstanding: this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality*

*Good: this aspect of the provision is strong*

*Satisfactory: this aspect of the provision is sound*

*Inadequate: this aspect of the provision is not good enough*

### Overall effectiveness

<b>How effective is the provision in meeting the needs of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage?</b>	Good
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	Good
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	Good

### Leadership and management

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

### Quality and standards

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

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](http://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.