

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	302692
Inspection date	14/01/2009
Inspector	Hilary Mary Mckenning
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 1996. She lives with her husband, son and daughter in Darton, near Barnsley. They live close to local schools, shops and other amenities. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding. There is a garden available for outdoor play. The family has a pet dog.

The childminder is registered to care for five children at any one time and is currently caring for four children on a part time basis. The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register, compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register.

The childminder attends the local carer and toddler group. She is a member of the childminding network in Barnsley and the local childminding group 'Childminders Together'. She is also a member of the National Childminding Association and part of the Affiliated Child care scheme at the local Sure Start Centre.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Children participate with enjoyment, are confident with daily routines and show a strong sense of belonging. They are happy and content within the calm and very relaxed environment. The support the childminder gives to the children is personalised to meet their individual needs allows them to become independent learners. Communication between the childminder and the parents is a two-way flow of information and knowledge. Recommendations raised at the last inspection have been addressed effectively to enhance the provision. Planning of activities is informal and children's progress is monitored. Inclusive practice is promoted by involving the children, listening to them and their parents and being aware of their needs

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- further develop planning to include the next steps for individual children learning and development.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

A comprehensive collection of policies and procedures, contributes to children's health and safety. These are regularly reviewed and shared with parents. Organisation of space and resources ensures children learn daily routines that help to promote their welfare and development. The childminder is enthusiastic and committed to improving her knowledge about childcare, through a set programme of relevant training. She continues to act upon training opportunities. For example, she has attended child protection training, behaviour management, an overview of

Webster Stratton and Early Years Foundation Stage training, along with many other relevant workshops. She uses this knowledge to enhance children's experiences and overall development. However, the monitoring of children's progress does not clearly identify the next steps in children learning.

The childminder understands her role in protecting children and uses her extensive knowledge ensures their welfare is paramount. Effective systems are in place to record any concerns, and the childminder has a very good understanding of the safeguarding procedure. Continued communication and well written policies ensure parents are kept well informed and up-to-date about their child's care and learning. The childminder has recognised that regular sharing of information with parents effectively supports links with home and increases children's sense of belonging. Some steps have been made to extend children's learning in the home and the childminder provides parents with the relevant information to do this. The childminder has completed a self evaluation of her services, and has identified her strengths and weaknesses and knows what to do to enable her to make improvements regarding monitoring children's progress.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Warm caring relationships with the children ensure they are confident to express their feelings and speak out. The childminder has a very calm and relaxed approach and the children respond very well to her. Children are very well behaved and receive quality care, good support and praise at every opportunity, which increases their overall well-being and promotes a sense of trust. For example, they say please and thank you and know the boundaries for expected behaviour, set by the childminder. Children are encouraged to explore and be curious while being well supervised at all times. The wide range of toys and resources encourages children to problem solve, communicate, take an interest in the wide world and be kind and sensitive to others.

Children access to a wide range of activities to extend their play and independence. The childminder has started to make written observations of what some children do and enjoy which she shares with their parents. However, the observations do not clearly identify children's next steps, therefore the planning to promote learning opportunities is not fully realised. Children are encouraged to be curious, explore and investigate, through a range of activities that are stimulating and interesting. For example, following an activity in the rain and splashing in puddles, every one is involved in making a picture of foot prints which also included the family's dog.

Children's care and welfare is promoted well, through the childminder's extremely positive approach to the organisation and safety of the premises. Regular risk assessments ensure the setting is safe, secure and keeps children safe. Children have access to good quality play materials and resources that are appropriate to their age and stage of development. Resources are clean, in good condition and regularly checked for wear and tear.

Children are becoming aware of danger and have meaningful discussions with the

childminder on how to keep safe. For example, helping to tidy up discarded toys and be aware of their surroundings. During walks and the school run, they practice road safety and know to stay with the childminder when they are on outings. The childminder has a good understanding of safeguarding children and has completed a relevant child protection course. She is confident to follow the procedure for reporting and recording any concerns she may have about a child in her care. The good health of children is promoted by a healthy, nutritious diet and good personnel hygiene skills.

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