

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	305820
Inspection date	16/12/2008
Inspector	Elaine Marie McDonnell
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 May 1994. She lives with her husband and their three sons, who are aged 15, 18 and 20 years old. The family live in the Ingleby Barwick area of Stockton-on-Tees and the home is situated within easy distance of schools, shops, nurseries, playgroups and toddler groups.

The whole of the ground floor of the house is used for childminding purposes, plus a bathroom and designated bedroom on the first floor. All areas are accessible and there is also an enclosed rear garden available for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for children on the Early Years Register and is also on the voluntary and compulsory parts of the Childcare Register. She is also registered to provide overnight care for one child aged under eight years at any one time.

There are currently eight children on roll aged between two years and 10 years, and most are cared for on a part-time basis. The childminder attends local toddler groups on a regular basis and is a member of the Yarm and Stockton-on-Tees childminder network groups.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The provision is extremely effective in meeting children's needs and children are making excellent progress in their learning and development. The childminder demonstrates a very high commitment to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for all children. The management of the provision is extremely professional; however, children's attendance records do not currently show when they leave the setting to attend nursery school. The childminder effectively evaluates her provision and ensures the continuous improvement in the service she provides.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- ensure that the attendance record accurately shows when children are present.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

Records, policies and procedures are extremely well organised and maintained to support the management of the provision and to ensure that the needs of all children are met. However, the record of children's attendance does not currently show when they are away from the setting, such as when attending nursery

school.

The childminder has an outstanding attitude towards personal development. She has completed many different training courses since her last inspection, including first aid, safeguarding and a National Vocational Qualification at level 3, and she is also in the process of completing a Foundation Degree course.

The childminder ensures the continuous improvement in the quality of care and education as the process for self-evaluation is extremely well established and areas for continuous improvement are clearly identified. The recommendation from the previous inspection has been fully addressed and promotes the outcomes for children.

The childminder works very well in partnership with parents and carers. Parents receive good quality information about the provision, including information on nutrition and the policies and procedures of the setting, such as complaints. Parents are kept very well informed about their children's achievements and progress through regular discussions with the childminder, the use of daily diaries and children's individual profiles. The childminder also seeks written feedback from parents and children about the provision and confidentiality is maintained.

Risk assessments are well conducted by the childminder and all necessary actions are taken to manage or eliminate risks to children. The childminder demonstrates an excellent knowledge and understanding of child protection and safeguarding issues and comprehensive procedures are in place to promote children's welfare.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The childminder supports children's learning extremely well by being involved in their play with them. The learning environment helps children to make excellent progress towards the early learning goals. There is a wide range of toys and activities readily available to help children progress in all areas of learning. Numbers, letters, children's artwork and 'welcome' posters in different languages are attractively displayed in the designated playroom and promote a welcoming and child-orientated environment.

Children are involved in a varied, stimulating and interesting range of planned, purposeful play and exploration, both in and out of doors. For example, diaries show that children have collected fruit from the trees in the garden and made different desserts with them and activity plans for the current month include the planting of new bulbs in the garden. Outings and visits to places of interest are planned in advance and boys and girls and individual interests are considered when planning activities. The childminder is very aware of the individual interests and preferences of the children in her care.

The childminder demonstrates excellent knowledge of how to promote inclusive practice and ensures that resources and activities are available to support children's individual understanding and circumstances. For example, specific books have been chosen which help children to prepare for the birth of a new sibling.

Planning is based on individuals to ensure that each child receives an enjoyable and challenging experience across the six areas of learning and takes their interests into account. Information from observation and assessment is very well used to identify areas for further development and ensure that children achieve as much as they can in relation to their starting points and capabilities. The childminder also liaises with the local nursery school to find out what activities children are involved in and any details about their development.

The childminder teaches children very well about each of the outcomes; for example, they learn about the importance of staying safe and keeping healthy, about the wider world and about how to make a positive contribution to society. The childminder demonstrates an excellent understanding of how to manage children's behaviour and promote their confidence and self-esteem. She presents as having a very calm and loving manner with the children in her care.

There are currently no children with any learning difficulties, disabilities or who speak English as an additional language attending the setting. However, the childminder has an extremely positive attitude towards caring for children with additional needs and demonstrates an excellent understanding of how to promote inclusion for all children. Overall, an inclusive and welcoming service is provided.

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?	1
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
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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.