

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	310078
Inspection date	24/10/2008
Inspector	Noreen Elizabeth Appleby
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 2001. She lives with her husband and their three children, aged two, five and eight years, in Prudhoe, Northumberland. All ground floor rooms and both first floor children's bedrooms are used for childminding purposes. Children also have access to a secure outdoor play area at the rear of the property.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children aged under eight years. There are currently three children under eight years on roll. The childminder also cares for children over the age of eight. She is registered on the Early Years Register and also on the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register.

The family have a cat and a dog.

The childminder is a member of the National childminders Association.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The childminder provides a warm, welcoming, child-friendly environment in which all children and their families feel safe, valued and fully included. Effective working relationships are maintained with parents and carers, including thorough discussion and information-sharing. This enables the childminder to know the children well and to continually support their individual needs. The childminder is proactive in enhancing her own knowledge and skills through attending training, undertaking personal reading and using the internet to research relevant issues. She is developing her knowledge and understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) requirements to further improve her good practice and to enhance outcomes for children.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- continue to develop planning, observation and assessment systems and involve parents, carers and other relevant persons in this process, to ensure that children are continually challenged and extended across all areas of learning
- continue to develop a system for self-evaluation to identify strengths and clear targets for further improvement
- improve health and hygiene arrangements by ensuring that children wash their hands before they eat and that hand-drying arrangements minimise the risk of cross infection (also applies to both parts of the Childcare Register.)

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder has set up good recording systems, including a broad range of policies and procedures. She uses these effectively to share information with parents and carers and to ensure that the needs of all children are well met. She is currently using the Early Years Foundation Stage guidance to develop planning, observation and assessment systems to support and extend children's learning consistently across all six areas of learning.

Written risk assessments and good daily routines ensure premises are secure and that children are safe indoors, out of doors and on outings. Premises are well organised to create a rich and interesting environment, which children explore freely and confidently. Regular domestic routines ensure premises are clean and comprehensive sickness procedures identify how the childminder supports children's health needs. Daily routines generally support children's health and hygiene, although children are not always prompted to wash their hands before they eat and they share use of a hand-towel, which compromises the risk of cross-contamination.

The childminder demonstrates a good knowledge of safeguarding issues and has sound plans in place to ensure children are fully protected in line with the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures. Children are also learning to keep themselves safe, for example, by practising the emergency evacuation procedure regularly and by using suitable road safety drills when they are out walking. The childminder is currently developing self-evaluation procedures to assess the service she provides. Formal contracts, agreements and associated records are well used to ensure a two-way flow of information regarding children's individual care, learning and developmental needs. The childminder also uses written questionnaires, as well as verbal discussion, to effectively seek the views of parents and carers and to further develop her good practice. Since the last inspection, she has improved information recorded in the accident log and on children's medication records, to further support outcomes for children.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children thoroughly enjoy their time in the setting. They are all very happy, settled and have formed close relationships with the childminder and their peers. The childminder demonstrates a sound understanding of the EYFS learning and development requirements. Activities are not formally planned to closely link with all six areas of learning. The childminder is developing sensitive routines for carrying out observations, which reflect on children's spontaneous play. These will be used to contribute towards the assessment process and assist in planning the next steps in each child's learning. However, the childminder has set up an individual file for each child to monitor their learning and progress and to share information with parents and carers. She is well aware of children's individual needs, interests and stages of development. She provides them with a broad variety of learning opportunities and is very enthusiastic and supportive, which motivates the children to learn.

Children benefit from a rich variety of good quality resources and a challenging environment, which they explore with interest. They are developing personal skills

and independence, for example, as they choose what they want for breakfast, set their place at the table and serve themselves. The childminder monitors them throughout to ensure suitable safety constraints. Most children enjoy playing together. Young children are developing good imagination as they use dolls, prams and other wheeled toys to act out familiar routines. Older ones enjoy using construction bricks to build imaginatively. Some play dominoes, read or watch television. All children enjoy art and craft activities, such as painting, drawing or using a variety of natural and man-made materials to create collages. They are social developing social skills as they mix with adults and peers during visits and outings. Good outdoor play opportunities ensure children have regular fresh air and exercise. This enhances children's physical development and contributes towards promoting a health lifestyle.

The childminder works closely with parents and carers to ensure that children are well cared for. She provides a safe and supportive environment, which enables children to thrive. She uses good techniques to create a kind, caring ethos and to manage children's behaviour competently. Children respond well to the childminder's positive and enthusiastic approach and they enjoy the encouragement and purposeful praise they receive. This gives them pride in their achievements and helps them to develop confidence and high self-esteem.

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

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

Leadership and management

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

Quality and standards

How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?	Satisfactory
How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?	Good
How well are children helped to stay safe?	Good
How well are children helped to be healthy?	Satisfactory
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	Good
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

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.