

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	311594
Inspection date	23/10/2008
Inspector	Lynne Pope
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 was registered in 1989. She lives with her husband and pet dog. They live in the residential area of Lobley Hill, Gateshead. The childminder's home is accessed by a step at the front door. The whole of the ground floor and the upstairs bathroom on the first floor are used for childminding. The childminder is registered on the Early Years, and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. She is registered to care for a maximum of six children aged under eight years. There are currently three children on roll aged three, four and seven years. She also cares for children aged over eight years. The childminder cares for children Monday to Friday from 07.30 to 18.00 for 47 weeks of the year. She takes and collects children from the local school and attends the local parent and toddler group.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The childminder provides a very happy, welcoming and inclusive environment working with parents and teachers. Children are provided with very effective support, which results in them making good progress in their learning and development. Good systems are in place to help children learn how to keep themselves safe. However, some of the required safety measures are not in place. The childminder assesses the quality of service, care and education sufficiently well and is able to identify strengths and areas for further improvements.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- further develop knowledge of the learning outcomes so that children's achievements are correctly recorded for assessment purposes
- develop risk assessments records further to cover outings.

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

- ensure that a current paediatric first aid certificate is held at all times (Suitable people) (also applies to the both parts of the Childcare Register)

13/11/2008

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder has assessed her service and targeted areas for further improvement. She has attended training courses to increase her knowledge of good quality care and education for children. For example, she has attended 'Enabling environments', and 'Early Years Foundation Stage' that have helped her to reflect on the service she provides. As a result, she has made improvements to

the way she plans activities for the individual child. A paediatric first aid course has been identified, but not yet completed, which results in her not meeting the specific legal requirement. The registration certificate is displayed meeting the recommendation that was raised at the previous inspection. The well-organised and child-focused environment helps children develop a good level of confidence and independence in their play and learning. Written risk assessment records highlight possible hazards in both the home and garden. Children are kept safe on outings, though these are not included in the written risk assessments.

All policies and procedures are fully in place, discussed and agreed with parents prior to their child starting. This ensures that they are aware of what she would do in certain circumstances. For example, if she had a safeguarding children concern. Effective settling in procedures ensures that the childminder develops a very useful understanding of the child's likes and dislikes. As a result, children settle in really well and are actively interested in the activities provided. Information is shared with the parent about their child's day, which enables them to continue the child's learning at home. The childminder has started to form links with other provisions that children attend which ensures progression and continuity of learning and care. Through letters provided at the inspection, parents all expressed their enthusiasm for the standard of care and education of their child.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children's learning and development is supported very effectively. The childminder has assessed children's starting points when they first attend which has enabled her to offer planned and child-initiated activities. This results in children being challenged and able to have independence and control over their learning which makes it extremely enjoyable for them and keeps their interest. Children thoroughly enjoy the time they spend with the childminder and thrive in the stimulating and caring environment. A very positive relationship has been developed between the children and the childminder. They become active learners and are happy to seek others out to share their experiences. Their curiosity is responded to very effectively by the childminder. This results in them gaining a good knowledge of a wider world as they begin to understand how and why things happen. Imagination is promoted well through good quality resources. Observation and assessment is becoming established to ensure that the individual child achieves as much as they can. Written observations note what children have been learning and what the childminder will do next with them. However, they do not directly link into the early learning goals.

Children's good health is promoted well through practical experiences. The childminder talks to them about why they should clean their teeth and children are able to use a toothbrush in their play as they clean the dolls teeth. Good quality furniture and resources are available for children. They are arranged to enable children to make their own choices which results in them developing their independence. Mostly there are good procedures in place to help children stay safe in the home. They learn to keep themselves safe as the childminder reminds them not to spill water on the floor in case they slip. Records and consents are well maintained for the protection of children. Snack and meal times are enjoyable

occasions for the children. The childminder consults them about what they would like. Their independence is developed further as they butter their own bread to make ham sandwiches for lunch. Well-organised activities develop their awareness of healthy eating as they plant seeds and watch them grow. Lots of outings are made into the local environment where they learn to mix with other children and adults. For example, they visit the park, activity centre, art galleries and museums.

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.	3

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?	3
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?	3
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:

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:

- take action as specified in the early years section of the report (CR1.3) 13/11/2008

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 in the early years section of the report (CR1.3) 13/11/2008

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.