

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	311625
Inspection date	31/10/2008
Inspector	Janet Fairhurst
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 1990. She lives with her husband in the Whickham area of Gateshead. The home is accessed by low level steps. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding purposes. There are shops and schools within walking distance. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The family has a pet dog, to which children have supervised access.

The childminder is on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. She is registered to care for six children at any one time and is currently caring for seven children, of whom three are in the early years age group. The childminder regularly attends a local carer and toddler group for minded children and takes and collects children from local schools.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The childminder provides a warm and welcoming environment for children and their families. The childminder has a basic knowledge of the Early Years Foundation Stage and is adequately evaluating the care and education she provides, in order to maintain continuous improvement. The childminder appropriately supports children's learning and they are making satisfactory progress in their individual learning and development. Overall, an inclusive and welcoming service is provided. Appropriate information is shared with parents on a daily basis but links with other providers are less effective.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- develop planning, observation and assessment systems and involve parents and other providers in this process, to ensure that children are continually challenged and their progress is monitored
- develop an effective system for self-evaluation to identify strengths and clear targets for further improvement.

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

- complete written risk assessments of the premises and outings and review them regularly.

14/11/2008

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder has all required documents relating to individual children in place. There is a basic statement in place which outlines some of the policies and procedures of the service, although a complaints policy is not included, therefore

the specific requirement is not met. The childminder is currently developing self-evaluation procedures to assess the service she provides, however, this is not yet effective enough to ensure that there is clear identification of targets for further improvements. She has attended some training courses to keep herself up to date, such as Early Years Foundation Stage, safeguarding children and first aid. There is no risk assessment of the premises, or of outings, as required in regulation. However, the childminder does ensure a safe and secure environment for children by conducting visual risk assessments throughout the day.

Appropriate priority is given to ensuring children are kept safe, for example, through discussing the emergency evacuation procedure with them and by using suitable road safety drills when they are out walking. The childminder demonstrates a satisfactory understanding of safeguarding issues and the procedures to follow if concerns about children's welfare are raised. There is a basic safeguarding policy in place. The childminder has done some child protection training and keeps related guidance on hand should she need advice.

The childminder is beginning to establish effective partnership with parents. She collates relevant information from parents at the start of the placement and talks to them on a daily basis about the activities their children have been involved in and any achievements made. She liaises with other childminders and is considering how she can effectively build links with the local school that she takes and collects children from. The childminder has addressed the recommendation made at her last inspection and has all required registration information displayed for parents.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children enjoy their time in the setting. They are happy, settled and have formed close relationships with the childminder. The childminder is well aware of children's individual needs, interests and stages of development. Although she is still familiarising herself with the Early Years Foundation Stage, children do access activities in the six areas covered by the early learning goals. The childminder is considering the systems she will use to carry out observations of children's play and how she can then use the information to contribute towards the assessment process and assist in planning the next steps in each child's learning.

There is a suitable range of play equipment which is easily accessible and covers all areas of learning. Through spontaneous everyday activities, such as playing with the cars, children are encouraged to count out how many they have and begin to recognise colours. Access to resources such as push button and pop up toys develops children's curiosity and critical thinking. On the whole, children behave well and the childminder is developing good skills in using praise and encouragement to promote children's awareness of what is right and wrong and to promote their self-esteem. Children are safeguarded well as the childminder's home is secure at all times. This is supplemented with effective procedures for adults collecting children.

The childminder supervises the children closely and all safety equipment is in place, reducing the risk of accidents. She ensures children are kept safe on outings as they learn road safety procedures and understand simple rules, such as holding hands

when crossing the road. The childminder implements sound hygiene routines, such as using antibacterial gel to clean children's hands when they are out of her home. Children's parents provide their meals, snacks and drinks, which the childminder ensures are stored appropriately. The regular walks out to nearby parks promote children's health and development.

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?	3
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	3
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?	3
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?	3
How well are children safeguarded?	3

Quality and standards

How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?	3
How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?	3
How well are children helped to stay safe?	3
How well are children helped to be healthy?	3
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	3
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	3
How well are children helped develop skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being?	3

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:

- draw up a written statement of procedures to be followed in relation to complaints 14/11/2008

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:

- draw up a written statement of procedures to be followed in relation to complaints 14/11/2008

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.