

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	311638
Inspection date	05/12/2008
Inspector	Kathleen Snowdon
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 1995. She lives with her husband and two sons, aged 15 and 20, in Whickham, near Gateshead. Her home is close to all facilities, including local schools and nurseries. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed back garden for outdoor play. The family has a pet dog.

The childminder is on the Early Years Register and the voluntary and compulsory parts of the Childcare Register. She is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time. Currently there are two children in the early years age group and one older child on roll. The childminder takes children to and collects them from local schools and nurseries and attends local childminder groups.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The childminder's knowledge and understanding of children's individual needs and interests means children make steady progress in their learning and development. Although the childminder does not hold a current paediatric first aid course, which is a specific legal requirement of the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage, the children's welfare is otherwise given sound priority. Partnership working is effective and helps the childminder to plan for improvement and evaluate her practice. Insufficient regard is given to the organisation of records.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- ensure that all records are readily available for inspection.

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

- complete an appropriate paediatric first aid course (Promoting good health) (also applies to the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register)

19/01/2009

The leadership and management of the early years provision

Documentation is not sufficiently well organised. Although essential records and written policies are in place, written parental consent to seek emergency medical treatment or advice for children was not readily available for inspection. Records are amended as soon as changes arise to keep information up-to-date and accurate and they are stored securely to protect confidentiality.

Thorough and well-considered risk assessments minimise risk in the childminder's well organised home; together with her secure understanding of safeguarding issues, this protects children from day-to-day. Sensible arrangements are in place to deal with children who are sick. This contains the spread of common illnesses and infections alongside consistent daily routines, such as hand-washing before eating and after using the bathroom.

The childminder's capacity to improve is exemplified in the way she has addressed recommendations made at the last inspection. She reflects on her practice and plans further training to keep her practice informed. However, the childminder does not hold a current paediatric first aid course, although arrangements have been made to rectify this in the near future.

Partnership with parents is sound. Contracts are used to set out clearly the expectations of both parties while daily discussions keep parents and the childminder fully informed about the children's recent experiences. Some of the children on roll have been in the childminder's care from babyhood, demonstrating parents' satisfaction with the service she provides. The childminder gives due priority to inclusion and meets the needs of all the children on roll.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The children's health and well-being are promoted effectively. They eat appetising, well-balanced meals and snacks to give them the nourishment that they need. They learn that exercise is fun as they dance, use hoops and balls and play basketball. Useful practices raise the children's awareness of danger. For example, they participate in regular fire drills to teach them how to stay safe in emergencies and carry out road safety routines to learn how to negotiate busy roads.

Excellent relationships exist between the children and the childminder. The children receive her complete attention, which increases their propensity to learn and helps them to feel secure, well supported and happy. Her consistent and sensitive guidance helps the children to behave acceptably, teaches them right from wrong and encourages the development of worthy personal qualities, such as kindness and consideration. The children learn to respect diversity by looking at books that reflect positive images of culture, ethnicity, gender and disability.

Regular observation and assessment of the children enables the childminder to establish their starting points and existing abilities. She plans activities that appeal to the children's interests, cover all areas of learning and help the children to make sound developmental progress. For example, they learn about the wider world during frequent trips to museums, the beach and the local park and they apply mathematics in practical situations when they weigh fruit and vegetables while shopping.

The childminder enriches and consolidates the children's learning opportunities through liaison with other childcare professionals. For example, she confers with staff at the nursery the children attend to find out what the children have been

talking about and working towards. The children say they enjoy their time at the childminder's and their favourite aspects are being with friends and playing. They describe the childminder as 'nice'.

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:

- complete an appropriate paediatric first aid course (CR1) 19/01/2009

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 above (CR1). 19/01/2009

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 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.