

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	311799
Inspection date	29/09/2008
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 2000. She lives with her husband and sons, aged 11 and 18, in Low Fell near Gateshead. Her home is easily accessible and is close to all facilities including local schools and nurseries. All rooms are used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outdoor play. The family has a pet cat.

The childminder is on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. She is registered to look after a maximum of six children under eight at any one time. Currently there are seven children on roll, three of whom are in the early years age group. All the children attend at staggered intervals. The childminder walks to local schools and nurseries to take and collect children. She supports children who are learning English as an additional language and she is a member of the National Childminding Association.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The childminder shows good understanding of all the children she cares for. This means that the children's individual needs are very well met, including those who are learning to speak English as an additional language. The childminder consults with parents to establish children's tastes and preferences and uses this information to plan interesting activities that all the children can take part in; this helps them to make good progress in all areas of their development.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- continue professional development, for example, by taking part in relevant training, such as safeguarding children.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder strives hard to improve her practice. For example, she has fully addressed the recommendations made in the last inspection, which were to obtain an appropriate first aid certificate and increase resources that reflect diversity. She is keen to develop professionally and has recently completed a level 3 qualification in home based child care; the childminder intends to build on this by taking part in further relevant courses, such as safeguarding children. She assesses her childminding practice by finding out what parents think of the service she provides. Parents have highly positive views of her. They describe her as 'lovely' and they particularly value the excellent relationships that she has with their children. The childminder gives good priority to inclusion. She knows the individual needs of all the children in her care and ensures that these are fully met. As well as this, the childminder is vigilant about protecting the children's welfare. For instance,

thorough assessment of risks inside and outside the childminder's home helps to prevent accidents and keeps children safe and well during the time they spend with her. The childminder's conscientious approach is also evident in the efficient way she keeps records. These are well organised, stored securely to protect confidentiality and amended as soon as changes occur.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The childminder's well organised home gives the children ample room in which to play and enables children to make good progress through the Early Years Foundation Stage. The easy access they have to good quality toys and resources gives the children lots of scope in which to have fun and enjoy themselves and encourages them to initiate play themselves. Effective assessment and observation of the children enables the childminder to plan and provide interesting indoor and outdoor activities that cover all areas of learning. These include crafts, such as painting, drawing and modelling, to allow the children to express their creativity and games in the local park to promote their physical development. As well as this the children benefit from routines, such as sitting together to eat, which helps them to develop important social skills. Good partnership with parents underpins the effective way in which the childminder meets the needs of all the children she cares for. She works closely with parents of children who are acquiring English as an additional language, to support the children's language and communication development. Daily diaries and discussions keep parents and the childminder informed of the children's recent experiences and enable them to share their knowledge of the children. Together they establish clear and consistent boundaries to teach the children right from wrong and how to behave acceptably. This approach promotes the children's moral development. Relationships between the children and the childminder are excellent. Positive early experiences such as these increase the children's propensity to learn new skills and enable them to form secure subsequent relationships.

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.	Good

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?	Good
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?	Good
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?	Good
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 registration or 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.