

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	311802
Inspection date	04/11/2008
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 adult son in Low Fell, Gateshead. Her home is easily accessible and close to all facilities, including local schools and nurseries. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding and there is a back garden for supervised outdoor play.

The childminder is on the Early Childcare Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. She is registered to look after a maximum of three children at any one time. Currently, there is one child in the early years age group and two older children on roll. The childminder walks to local schools to collect children and she attends local toddler groups.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The childminder has good understanding of the individual needs and interests of the children in her care. This helps the children to make sound progress in their learning and development. Equal regard is given to all areas of learning but there are too few opportunities for children to learn about diversity. Partnership with parents and other agencies is secure and helps the childminder to evaluate and improve her practice. Insufficient priority is given to documentation, which means some essential policies are not in place.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- help children become aware of differences in gender, ethnicity, language, religion, culture, special educational needs and disability issues.

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

- make available to parents a written statement that provides details of the procedure to be followed if they have a complaint (also applies to both parts of the Childcare Register)

18/11/2008

The leadership and management of the early years provision

Although most essential records are in place, there are no written policies about making complaints and safeguarding children. However, the childminder talks knowledgeably about both issues, especially about signs and symptoms that indicate abuse, and conveys this information to parents. Documentation is stored securely to protect confidentiality and details are amended as soon as changes occur to keep information up-to-date and accurate.

The childminder works closely with parents and with other professionals. They share their knowledge of the children to ensure that children's needs are met as fully as possible. Contracts are used to set out clearly the expectations of parents and the childminder. A daily diary system keeps parents informed of what their children have done on particular days. Daily discussions between parents and the childminder keep both abreast of the children's recent experiences.

The childminder reflects on her service and takes steps to improve it, demonstrated by the way in which recommendations made at the last inspection have been fully addressed. As well as this, the childminder takes part in relevant training to keep her practice well informed; recent courses include first aid and enabling environments. The childminder carries out thorough risk assessments to minimise risk indoors and out. This protects children on a day-to-day basis.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The children benefit from the childminder's close supervision during the time they spend with her. She is attentive to their needs and gives clear explanations to their questions. This means that children are well supported as they develop new skills. The childminder has excellent relationships with the children. She tells them how special they are to her and boosts their sense of self-worth in the process. Consequently the children are happy, secure and well settled.

The childminder's home provides children with ample, clear floor space to enable them to move around freely and negotiate space safely. There is a wide selection of developmentally appropriate toys and resources for the children to use. It is easily accessible, giving the children the scope to make choices and decisions and initiate play of their own accord. The children borrow books from the library which show images of diversity. In general though there are too few opportunities for children to learn about gender, ethnicity, culture and disability.

The childminder observes and assesses the children to establish their starting points and to identify specific learning needs. She uses the information effectively to plan enjoyable activities that cover all areas of learning. For example, the children go to toddler group where they meet new friends and acquire important social skills. They paint to express their creativity and they play with small world figures to use their imagination and pretend.

Appetising and nutritious food promotes the children's health. The childminder knows children's individual likes and dislikes and bases menus on these. Meals include traditional roast dinners and fish dishes while fruit based snacks encourage the development of healthy tastes and preferences. The children have several opportunities to play outside, during trips to the park, for example. This encourages them to be active and allows them plenty of fresh air.

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

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?	Satisfactory
How well are children helped to stay safe?	Satisfactory
How well are children helped to be healthy?	Satisfactory
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	Satisfactory
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	Satisfactory
How well are children helped develop skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being?	Satisfactory

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 this report (Childcare Register: Procedures for dealing with complaints) 18/11/2008
- keep and implement a written statement of procedures to be followed for the protection of children, intended to safeguard children from abuse and neglect (Childcare Register: Arrangements for safeguarding children) 18/11/2008

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 this report (Childcare Register: Procedures for dealing with complaints) 18/11/2008
- keep and implement a written statement of procedures to be followed for the protection of children as detailed above (Childcare Register: Arrangements for safeguarding children) 18/11/2008

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 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.