

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	312502
Inspection date	18/12/2008
Inspector	Cathryn Parry
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 1992. She lives with her husband, son aged 17 years and adult daughter. They live in the residential area of Hebburn in South Tyneside. The childminder's home is accessed by the front door. The whole of the ground floor and the bathroom and toilet on the first floor of the childminder's home is used for childminding. The childminder is registered on the Early Years, compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. She is registered to care for a maximum of six children aged under eight years at any one time. She also cares for children aged over eight years. There are currently six children on roll. Of these, three are in the early years age range. The childminder cares for children on weekdays from 07.00 to 17.30 for 50 weeks of the year. She has completed a relevant training course and holds a current paediatric first aid certificate. She takes and collects children from the local school and attends the local parent and toddler group. The family has a rabbit.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The childminder offers a warm and friendly welcome to all children and their families. She provides a range of activities for the children to participate in, which encourages them to enjoy their time in her care. The childminder demonstrates a positive attitude to providing an inclusive environment. This includes being willing to attend relevant training courses. All documentation is not in place, which is a breach of requirements. The childminder's limited understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage and the requirements she must adhere to, results in her not maintaining continuous improvement.

Overall, the early years provision requires significant improvement. The registered person is given a Notice to Improve that sets out actions to be carried out.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

To comply with the requirements of the EYFS the registered person must take the following action by the specified date:

- request written permission from parents at the time of the child's admission to the provision, to seeking of any necessary emergency medical advice or treatment in the future (Safeguarding and promoting children's welfare) 18/12/2008
- maintain a record of risk assessments (Suitable premises, environment and equipment) 01/01/2009
- develop effective systems of evaluation to promote an environment of continuous improvement. (Organisation). 01/01/2009

To improve the early years provision the registered person should:

- further develop a system for planning activities, observing children and recording their progress.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

Self-evaluation systems are not implemented. Consequently, the childminder does not have a clear understanding of her strengths and weaknesses and how to improve the service she provides. This results in her breaching some of the requirements. She has positively addressed the recommendations raised at the previous inspection. An example of this is where she has ensured smoke detectors are located on each floor to safeguard children.

The childminder has built suitable relationships with parents. She speaks to them on a daily basis to ensure they are aware of the activities their children have participated in. Consequently, this enables them to continue their children's learning at home as they follow interests which have been highlighted by the childminder. She demonstrates a positive attitude to liaising with other professionals to ensure children's individual needs are met. The childminder has made links with the local nursery and talks to the staff about activities the children enjoy whilst in their care. This information is adequately used to follow children's interests.

The childminder has attended safeguarding training and demonstrates an appropriate understanding of related issues. She carries out basic visual risk assessments on a daily basis in order to reduce the risk of accidental injury. However, these are not recorded, which is a breach of requirements.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The range of resources provided by the childminder ensures each of the areas of learning is adequately covered. She basically plans the experiences the children will enjoy, such as trips to the beach, library and parent and toddler groups. However, there is no formal structure to this or any written evidence. She states that she observes children on a regular basis and knows them well with regard to progress being made. However, there is no evidence to confirm this or records to show children's achievements. Children are settled and the childminder interacts well with them. The affectionate and gentle care given by her enables them to develop a sense of belonging and trust. A suitable balance of child-centred and adult-led activities is provided. Most toys are stored at the children's height to promote free choice and independence. They enjoy exploring the special electronic toys, which relate to Christmas, including a Santa that reads them a story. Children are able to use their imaginations as they use the dressing up clothes and take the baby dolls for a walk in the buggy. A variety of creative activities including painting, making models and manipulating play dough, promote children's self-expression whilst having fun.

Children are cared for in a well-maintained environment, where toys and

equipment are cleaned regularly. They access some opportunities for large physical play, such as using climbing equipment in the park. Parents bring packed meals for their children, which the childminder complements with snacks, such as fresh fruit. She encourages generally good personal hygiene practices, including encouraging hand washing after using the toilet. This promotes good lifestyle habits. Records are kept in respect of accidents and medication and these are shared with parents. The childminder does not request written permission from all parents at the time of the child's admission to the provision, to seeking of any necessary emergency medical advice or treatment in the future. This is a breach of requirements. Children do not generally attend if they are sick, which enables the childminder to protect others from illness. Children are kept safe on outings as they learn road safety procedures and understand simple rules, such as stopping at the curb to watch for traffic. Safety equipment is in place to suitably reduce the risk of accidental injury. The childminder implements appropriate behaviour management strategies to promote acceptable behaviour. She demonstrates a reasonable understanding of equal opportunities and complements this with some associated resources. These include small world figures and a book showing different cultures. Consequently, children's awareness and understanding of difference is adequately raised.

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?	4
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	3
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	4

Leadership and management

How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?	4
How effective is the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement?	4
How well does the setting work in partnership with parents and others?	3
How well are children safeguarded?	4

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?	4
How well are children helped to stay safe?	4
How well are children helped to be healthy?	4
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:

- keep and implement a written statement of procedures to be followed for the protection of children, intended to safeguard the children being cared for from abuse and neglect (CR2.1) (also applies to the voluntary part of the Childcare Register).

24/12/2008

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 compulsory Childcare Register section of the report (CR2.1)

24/12/2008

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.