

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	506937
Inspection date	10/03/2009
Inspector	Stephen Andrew Blake
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 1989 and lives with her husband in their three-storey home in Hexham. She is registered on the Early Years Register, the child care register and the voluntary child care register. The whole of the ground floor and first floor toilets are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed rear yard available for outside play. The childminder has a pet dog.

The childminder has not yet entered into partnership arrangements with local childcare providers. The childminder is registered to care for a total of six children at any one time. She is currently minding nine children on a part-time basis at variable times throughout the week. Of these, four children are within the early years age range.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The overall quality of the provision is satisfactory. The childminder has an appropriate knowledge and understanding of each child's individual needs. She has established generally effective systems to safeguard children on the premises but she does not record her risk assessments and there is one weakness in the recording of parent's agreement to emergency medical consent. The childminder has established a positive and appropriate understanding of inclusive practice; however, she has not established links with other childcare and education providers to ensure continuity of care. Although she has implemented systems for identifying children's starting points and next steps in their learning, there are weaknesses in her systems for planning and observation.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- ensure that requested parental permission at the start of the placement to the seeking of any necessary emergency medical advice or treatment in the future, is written
- establish effective communication between settings to ensure that children's needs are met and there is continuity in their learning
- develop the system of planning to ensure that all areas of learning are delivered through planned, purposeful play, with a balance of adult-led and child-initiated activities
- make systematic observations and assessments of each child's achievements, interests and learning styles across all areas of learning.

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

- provide a record of the risk assessment clearly stating 24/03/2009

when it was carried out, by whom, date of review and any action taken following a review or incident

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder has established a system of self-evaluation and has a satisfactory understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of her service. She is proactive in identifying some aspects of training to support her development, for example, with regard to improving her systems for making observations and assessments of children's learning.

Parents are highly valued as partners and value the flexibility of the childminder to provide a service around their working commitments. The childminder provides parents with regular verbal communication as well as written policies and record keeping. The childminder has not yet established a system for effective communication between settings to ensure that children's needs are met and there is continuity in their learning.

Children are generally safeguarded because the childminder undertakes a visual risk assessment. However, she has not implemented a system to record the risk assessment clearly stating when it was carried out, by whom and any action taken following a review or incident. She does not record parental consent to the seeking of any necessary medical advice or treatment in the future. Children are safeguarded as the childminder understands the required child protection procedures and ensures that appropriate safeguarding policies are in place.

The childminder is warm and welcoming to all children and their families. There is an appropriate range of play equipment accessible to children who know where their favourite toys are. Policy statements show an inclusive, anti-discriminatory approach to the childminder's business and are available to parents for their information.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children are well settled and have a good relationship with the childminder. She has created a calm, welcoming environment and provides children with sensitive support. The childminder has a satisfactory understanding of how children learn and provides resources that encourage and stimulate their enthusiasm and motivation for learning. She provides a range of craft resources, takes children to participate in local toddler groups and visits the library. She has not established a system to ensure the delivery of planned, purposeful play, with a balance of adult-led and child-initiated activities across the six areas of learning. Also her systems for observation and assessment of children's learning across the six areas of learning are not robust. She involves parents appropriately in monitoring the quality of her service, through regular discussions.

The learning environment is conducive to children's learning and development, for

example, she provides children with an appropriate range of accessible and stimulating resources across the registered age range. This means they have opportunities to make satisfactory progress in their learning and development. During activities the childminder supports children's learning appropriately by asking questions relating to their chosen activity. This helps children to feel valued and promotes their self-esteem. Children are involved in their local community and socialise with other children as they visit the park, attend toddler groups and use the local library.

Children understand how to keep themselves safe from harm by listening to the childminder talk about how to stay safe when going for walks and participating in a regular fire evacuation practice. The childminder has established satisfactory systems to help children stay healthy, for example, with regard to keeping her home clean and implementing procedures to avoid cross infection. Children are encouraged to develop their independence with self-help skills, such as washing their hands before eating and tidying away after an activity. They are developing skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being as they visit and learn to use the local library. The childminder has established appropriate child protection policies.

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?	2
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:	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 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.