

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY217135
Inspection date	20/11/2008
Inspector	Sharon Greener

Type of setting	Childminder
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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 2002. She lives with her husband and son aged 17 years. They live in the residential area of Seaham, County Durham. The childminder's home is accessed by one step. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's home is used for childminding. The childminder is registered on the Early Years, and compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Registers. She is registered to care for a maximum of six children aged under eight years. There are two children on roll aged 16 months and three years. She also cares for children aged over eight years. The childminder cares for children on weekdays from 07.00 to 18.00 for 49 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 groups.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The childminder welcomes parents and children into her home where they are recognised and respected as individuals. She demonstrates a suitable awareness of the need to provide an inclusive environment and to work in partnership with parents and other professionals to meet children's individual needs. She has a basic understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage and children make satisfactory progress towards the early learning goals. However, procedures to evaluate practice and to take action to address areas that require development to promote continuous improvement are weak. Not all of the required documentation is in place and risk assessments are not robust enough, which results in the specific legal requirements not being met.

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 for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment (Promoting good health) 04/12/2008
- make available to parents a written statement that provides details of the procedure to be followed if they have a complaint (Safeguarding and welfare, also applies to both parts of the Childcare Register) 04/12/2008
- put in place effective procedures of conducting and recording information in relation to risk assessments of indoor facilities and all outings (Documentation, also applies to both parts of the Childcare Register). 04/12/2008
- establish effective methods of assessing the quality of 04/12/2008

the care, education and service provided and of identifying and addressing areas identified for development and improvement (Organisation).

To improve the early years provision the registered person should:

- extend children's access to resources to help raise their awareness of diversity
- continue to further develop links with other providers to work co-operatively to best support children's learning and development.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder has a satisfactory understanding of policies and procedures and in general these are well implemented. Security is well maintained. Suitable procedures are in place regarding the collection of children. Appropriate methods of obtaining required information from parents about children's individual requirements are employed. However, not all of the required documentation is in place or sufficiently well organised. There is no written procedure regarding the management of complaints and written consent to seek emergency medical treatment is not obtained from parents. The childminder has a suitable understanding of the action to be taken to safeguard a child from harm. The recommended child protection literature and contact details for the Local Safeguarding Children Board are available for reference. However, a written safeguarding policy is not in place. Procedures for self-evaluation are not effective and do not identify areas for development or improvement sufficiently well. Visual risk assessments for indoor facilities are adequate. However, there are no written risk assessment procedures in place, including those required for outings. This results in the childminder not meeting specific legal requirements.

Parents are provided with satisfactory information about policies and procedures and the service provided. The childminder manages children's introduction into her care well. They visit her home several times to become familiar with her and her family. She gleans relevant information from parents about their children and records it in their personal file. Respective parents have access to these records. This helps the childminder to become aware of children's preferences, routines and abilities. Observations are used sufficiently well to enable her to assess children's developmental stages and capabilities. Consequently, children are suitably supported and appropriately challenged. They have access to a satisfactory range of resources and activities. Parents are kept well informed of their children's progress and day-to-day events through regular verbal feedback. The childminder talks to parents about their child's preferred activities and favourite toys to enable them to mirror these at home and to encourage them to support their children's learning.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children make satisfactory progress towards the early learning goals. The childminder has an adequate knowledge of the Early Years Foundation Stage and

has completed relevant training. Children benefit from a suitable variety of adult-led and child-initiated activities. The childminder tells stories and initiates group play, action games, baking activities and special creative activities. The space available is used appropriately to provide children with relatively easy access to a satisfactory selection of resources. This allows them to choose their own activities and helps to promote their decision-making and independence skills. A toddler enjoyed exploring and using musical and cause-and-effect toys placed on the lounge floor whilst supported by the childminder. The childminder forms warm relationships with the children. She talks warmly to them and gives praise. For example, when a toddler mimicked her action of rolling balls along the floor. During play with the toddler she introduces and reinforces key words and encourages him to vocalise. Children respond well and are contented in her care.

Children's health is well promoted. The childminder raises their awareness of the benefits of healthy eating, being physically active and of adopting suitable hygiene practices. Hygiene standards throughout the home are good. Equipment and resources are clean and well maintained. Meals are home cooked using fresh ingredients and suitably nutritious. The childminder works in harmony with parents to ensure children's dietary needs are well met. Children have access to fresh drinking water. They benefit daily from outdoor play and physical exercise and regularly go for walks to local parks and green areas. The childminder attends local toddler groups several times each week. This provides younger children with access to additional activities and opportunities interact socially with their peer group. The childminder talks to children about rules and boundaries in accordance with their level of understanding. This helps to raise their awareness of danger and the need to preserve their own safety and that of others. Matters, such as, staying close to her during outings, road safety and not approaching or talking to strangers are discussed. Children are given gentle reminders and explanations of rules as necessary. The childminder demonstrates a satisfactory understanding of acceptable behaviour management strategies which she uses well. Children respond positively to her and their behaviour is good. Security in the home is well maintained, suitable safety equipment is in place and children are supervised closely. A daily visual risk assessment is conducted before children's arrival and regular fire drills are completed.

Children's awareness of the wider world and equal opportunity is sufficiently promoted. They have access to a small selection of resources and activities. However, these do not address all aspects of diversity. The childminder shows a sufficient awareness of how to support children who speak English as an additional language or those with learning difficulties or disabilities. She recognises the need to work in partnership with parents and other agencies and professionals to help ensure children's needs are met.

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.	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?	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:

- put in place a written safeguarding children from harm policy and procedure (CR2.1) 04/12/2008
- take action as specified in the early years section of the report (regarding CR7.1) 04/12/2008

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 early years section of the report (regarding requirement CR7.1) 04/12/2008
- take action as specified in the compulsory childcare section of the report (regarding requirement CR2.1) 04/12/2008

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.