

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY221269
Inspection date	17/10/2008
Inspector	Karen Marie Tervit
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 has been registered since December 2003. She lives with her husband and two children in Shildon, County Durham. Pre-schools, schools, shops and leisure facilities are within walking distance. The whole of the ground floor and child's bedroom are used for childminding. Toilet facilities are downstairs. There is a fully enclosed rear yard available for outside play.

The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and compulsory and voluntary part of the Childcare Register. She is registered to care for four children and is currently caring for three children on a part time basis.

The childminder attends local carer and toddler groups. She is a member of the National Childminding Association. She has a level 3 qualification in Early Years Childcare and Education and is working towards a further childcare qualification.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Children are cared for in an inclusive and welcoming environment. They are making good progress as the childminder provides a rich learning environment within her home and outdoors. She works closely with parents to meet the individual needs for all children and keeps them well informed about their progress. The childminder regularly attends training to develop her knowledge and understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage requirements as well as childcare and development in general, through her foundation degree. She regularly evaluates her practice in order to promote good outcomes for children.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- practise the emergency evacuation procedure
- involve parents further in contributing to children's learning journeys.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder has a very good understanding of her role in safeguarding children. All required records, policies and procedures are in place and used effectively to promote children's welfare. Appropriate written risk assessments help to ensure that children are kept safe, both in the home and on outings. The childminder takes contact details and parental written permissions on outings. She has a detailed emergency evacuation procedure in place; however, she has not yet practised this with the children to raise their awareness of what to do in the event of an emergency.

Very good quality information is shared with parents; they are invited to contribute

what they know about their child's needs, and interests before their children start at the setting, enabling the childminder to meet the individual needs of the children. Children are allowed to take as long as needed to settle and parents are encouraged to telephone throughout the day if they are concerned. An informative notice board displays the childminder's certificate of registration, the day's menu as well as information about the Early Years Foundation Stage.

The childminder has made significant progress since the last inspection, she continually looks at ways in which to improve her practice and develop her skills, for example, she has just completed the first year of a foundation degree in early childhood education. She uses her enhanced knowledge of child development to provide a rich learning environment for children.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children are very happy, settled and have a very good relationship with the childminder; they approach her confidently and freely. The childminder recognises when they become tired. She works very closely with parents to support children's learning and progress. For example, she observes children in their play and uses these to plan for the next stage in children's learning. She has started to provide parents with detailed examples of children's learning and progress on a weekly basis; however, systems are not yet fully developed to encourage parents to contribute to these to enhance their children's learning further.

Even very young children thoroughly enjoy making marks or posting shapes in the box. They learn colours and numbers in everyday activities through the gentle support of the childminder. She provides good opportunities for children to develop their physical skills; they play outdoors daily in the rear yard or the local park. They attend a musical, messy play session on a weekly basis, which the childminder helps to run. Children have good opportunities to mix and develop their social skills as they visit the local toddler groups. Young children enjoy a variety of outings to places such as local railway museum.

Children are very well behaved and respond positively to the childminder's praise and encouragement. She has attended further training in behaviour management and uses the skills learnt effectively to promote positive behaviour. She works very closely with parents to ensure consistency. Children enjoy a healthy and varied diet. They thoroughly enjoy their fruit and yogurt snack and home cooked lunches. There is a good range of toys and resources in place to support their learning; these are well maintained and appropriate to the needs and interests of the children attending. The childminder is constantly developing these as children progress to the next stage in their learning. This enables children to receive appropriate challenges. Children celebrate different festivals such as Christmas, Diwali and Chinese New Year.

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?	Satisfactory
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 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.