

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY376508
Inspection date	02/12/2008
Inspector	Cilla Burdis
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 2008. She lives with her husband and two children aged one and five years in Waldrige Village, Chester-Le-Street, County Durham. The whole of the ground floor and the bathroom and nursery bedroom located on the first floor of the childminder's house are used for childminding. There is an enclosed garden for outside play. The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. She is registered to care for a maximum of four children, aged under eight years, at any one time. She also cares for children aged over eight years. There are currently three children on roll; of these, two are in the early years age range. The childminder cares for children on weekdays from 06.30 to 18.00 for 48 weeks of the year. She has completed a relevant training course and holds a current paediatric first aid certificate. The childminder takes and collects children from the local school and attends the local parent and toddler group. The family has two dogs and one cat.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Children are cared for in a warm and friendly environment that is effectively organised to develop children's self-help skills and independence. The wide range of activities and experiences made available to the children ensures they are engaged in purposeful play. The effective induction procedure ensures the childminder meets children's individual needs well and she shows a positive attitude to providing an inclusive environment. The childminder is continually improving the service she provides through effective self-evaluation.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- further develop the systems for planning, observations and assessments.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder shows a commitment to the ongoing development of her knowledge and practice and welcomes future training, with regard to the Early Years Foundation Stage. A parental information booklet, which includes detailed policies and procedures, clearly outlines the service offered to children and their families. Documents required for the safe and efficient management of the provision are well maintained. The childminder understands her role in safeguarding children. She demonstrates a good understanding of associated issues and a written procedure is in place. Comprehensive, written risk assessments have been undertaken, which ensures that children are cared for in a safe environment.

The childminder obtains good quality information from parents during the induction process. Visits are encouraged in order to help the children to settle. 'All About Me' records provide the childminder with personal details about the child, such as their favourite foods and the names of their family and friends. This also contributes to a smooth transition for a child entering the new environment. The childminder liaises closely with parents and carers on a daily basis both verbally and with written diaries. She values effective partnerships with parents to ensure continuity of care for the child. Partnerships have been further developed by forming links with the local school and nursery.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The childminder plans activities around the individual children's interests. She then develops the activity to broaden the experiences for each child. A growing knowledge of the Early Years Foundation Stage enables the childminder to support the individual learning and development needs of the children. The childminder monitors activities to ensure that they cover all of the areas of learning covered by the early learning goals. She has a good understanding of children's abilities and their next steps in learning. However, the systems for recording do not identify the next steps for all the areas of learning. It is clear that the childminder organises activities and experiences to encourage children to make progress. For example, by assessing a child's colour recognition when playing with cars and developing this task further by asking if there are more cars in one colour or another.

Children benefit from a good balance of adult-led and child-initiated play. They enjoy looking at books together, musical activities and outdoor activities in the garden. The childminder has a good variety of outdoor resources to provide a range of activities, such as a bubble-making machine, a sand and water tray, trampoline and bouncy castle. Children learn about their local community when, for example, they visit the local shops. The childminder provides resources, including a till, shopping trolley and play food so the children can re-enact the shopping experience. Children's communication skills are nurtured well as the childminder encourages conversation through effective questioning techniques. The childminder responds affectionately and lets children know that she values what they have to say.

The childminder manages children's behaviour well. She is a good role model and provides clear and consistent boundaries to help children learn what is and is not acceptable. All behaviour issues are dealt with in a sensitive way and in accordance with the child's level of understanding and maturity.

Effective procedures promote children's good health. For example, the sickness policy is implemented effectively to minimise the risk of spreading infection. Children benefit from healthy meals and snacks, which include a variety of fresh fruit and vegetables. Essential information on special dietary or health needs is sought before the children attend. All relevant details are recorded and stored in the child's individual file.

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?	2
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	2
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	2

Leadership and management

How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?	2
How effective is the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement?	2
How well does the setting work in partnership with parents and others?	2
How well are children safeguarded?	2

Quality and standards

How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?	2
How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?	2
How well are children helped to stay safe?	2
How well are children helped to be healthy?	2
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	2
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	2
How well are children helped develop skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being?	2

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 registration.

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.