

## Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique reference number</b>	300580
<b>Inspection date</b>	14/11/2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Tracey Jane Outram
<b>Type of setting</b>	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 1999. She lives in Sheffield, South Yorkshire, with her husband and two children aged 16 and 17 years. The house is situated within walking distance of local amenities, such as schools, shops and public play areas. All ground floor rooms are used for childminding purposes and there is an enclosed rear garden, which is used for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children under the age of eight years at any one time, and this includes three places for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage. The setting also makes provision for older children, which is registered on the voluntary and compulsory parts of the Childcare register. The children occupying these places share the same facilities as the children in the early years age range. The childminder is currently caring for nine children, of whom four children are in the early years age range. Care is provided each weekday and throughout the year. The childminder is working towards a level 3 qualification appropriate to the work.

## Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The childminder takes some positive steps to promote the children's welfare. Appropriate safeguarding procedures are implemented and the home is welcoming, safe and secure. Relationships with parents and carers are healthy and children's individual needs are appropriately met. In addition, the childminder forges strong links with other care and education settings in order to compliment the children's learning and development. With the exception of risk assessments for outings and the registers of attendance, most other documentation is completed in line with regulations. However, the system of self-evaluation is not fully developed; therefore, it is not used to specifically target improvements to the service.

## What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- include parents in the planning for children's learning and development
- update the child protection policy to include the details of the Local Safeguarding Children Board
- use self-evaluation as method of critical reflection.

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

- carry out a full risk assessment for each type of outing (Safeguarding and promoting children's welfare) 28/11/2008
- ensure that registers of attendance are maintained showing children's arrival and departure times (Organisation) (also applies to both parts of the Childcare Register). 28/11/2008

## **The leadership and management of the early years provision**

Care is provided from safe and well-maintained premises. Extremely thorough risk assessments are completed on all areas of the home and the childminder demonstrates an appropriate understanding of the local safeguarding procedures. Records, policies and procedures are mostly well ordered and ready for inspection; however, the written child protection policy contains some outdated information and the registers of attendance lack sufficient detail about the children's hours of attendance. In addition, risk assessments, which take into account the nature of the outing, are not reviewed before embarking on each specific excursion. This is a requirement of the Early Years Foundation Stage.

The childminder holds a valid first aid qualification and health and hygiene routines are carefully followed. The home is clean, and appropriate policies are in place to ensure that children are safeguarded from the transfer of infection. Toys and equipment are suitably arranged to provide children with independent access to a range of stimulating and interesting resources. The childminder has not yet developed robust systems of self-evaluation; consequently, there are no reliable methods of highlighting the strengths of the provision and areas that would benefit from further development. However, the childminder has a positive attitude towards improving the provision for children. Since the last inspection she has enhanced her practice by improving some aspects of her documentation and attending training in order to achieve a level 3 qualification appropriate to her work.

## **The quality and standards of the early years provision**

The children benefit from fresh drinks on request and they are provided with a healthy and nutritious diet, which is agreed with parents at the start of a placement. In addition, the childminder encourages children to understand a range of environmental hazards. For example, during outings they learn about road safety and a visit from the local fire brigade helped to reinforce the danger of fire. There are many opportunities for the children to play independently; they self-select toys and enjoy having pretend tea parties and playing imaginatively with a range of small world toys, such as the farm yard. This encourages the children's developing vocabulary and the use of language for communication. In addition, the children's creative development is fostered through listening to music, playing instruments and participation in a selection of arts and craft activities. The childminder provides a supportive service to the children and their families; she accommodates a range individual needs and communicates openly with parents. The childminder makes some sensitive observations of the children, which help her to provide some valuable early years experiences that are appropriate to their individual interests and needs. However, methods of including parents in planning for the next steps in their children's learning are not robust.

Warm and caring relationships are in evidence between the minded children and the childminder. Consequently, the children are self-assured and demonstrate a strong-

sense of belonging. The children are inquisitive and well behaved. They assist the childminder with small tasks, such as helping to tidy away the toys, and they respond happily when they receive praise for their achievements. Overall, the children benefit educationally because the childminder has taken positive steps to build positive links with other care providers, such as the local nursery. As a result, relevant information is shared and activities are planned to enhance and sustain children's learning. For instance, pre-school children who enjoy number activities are challenged and introduced to the concepts of time and measure. The children are developing their awareness of the local environment through enjoying outings to local places of interest. However, there are fewer opportunities for the children to learn about the wider world and cultural diversity.

## 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

<b>How effective is the provision in meeting the needs of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage?</b>	3
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	3
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	3

### Leadership and management

<b>How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?</b>	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?	3
How well are children safeguarded?	3

### Quality and standards

<b>How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?</b>	2
<b>How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?</b>	3
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?	3
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](http://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:

- take action as specified in the early years section of the report (CR8). 28/11/2008

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 and compulsory Childcare Register sections of the report (CR8). 28/11/2008

## **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.