

Inspection report for early years provision

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| Unique reference number | 506920 |
| Inspection date | 07/10/2008 |
| Inspector | Sharon, Amelia Robson |
| 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 1988. She lives with her husband and two children, aged five and seven years, in a residential area of Alnwick, Northumberland. The property is close to local amenities, including schools, parks and toddler groups. Children have access to the whole of the ground floor and there is an enclosed rear yard available for outdoor play. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children under eight years. She is registered on the Early Years Register and compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The childminder effectively supports children to make good progress in their learning and development. She is very committed to providing an inclusive environment where all children are valued and have their individual needs met. They experience a wide range of stimulating and enjoyable activities, which take into account their likes and interests. The childminder has very good capacity to improve as she regularly evaluates her practice, including reviewing policies and procedures, and putting detailed observation, monitoring and assessment procedures into place. She also implements recommendations from previous inspections.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- provide children with access to individual hand towels

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

- obtain written permission from parents before administering medication to children (Safeguarding and promoting children's welfare)

08/10/2008

The leadership and management of the early years provision

Children are safeguarded as effective and detailed written policies and procedures are in place, all documentation and records are very well organised and confidentially maintained. However, written parental consent for administering medication is not in place for all children. Children's safety is given high priority and they are closely supervised at all times. Risk assessments are extremely detailed and take into account the indoor and outdoor environment, so that hazards are minimised for children. In addition, risk assessments include any outings that children go on and any transport used. The childminder has attended

further child protection training and as a result has a very secure awareness of safeguarding issues.

The childminder is proactive in ensuring that her knowledge regarding children learning and development is sound and as a result is keen to attend training to enhance this. She has begun to look at the Early Years Foundation Stage self-assessment in order to develop her strengths and improve any weaknesses. The recommendation raised at the last inspection has been fully addressed. There are now detailed written fire safety policies and procedures in place, including written evacuation plans, which are practised with children.

Partnerships with parents are extremely strong as the childminder values their contributions and keeps them informed about all aspects of their children's development and achievements. Information from parents is effectively used in planning and to provide care and learning opportunities that meet children's individual needs. Their development files and photographs are shared with parents, alongside discussions about activities children are involved in, enabling parents to support their children's learning at home. The childminder has made good links with other services used by minded children and also links her plans with school and nursery activities and topics.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The childminder has effective systems in place to ensure children make good progress across all areas of learning. She uses observations and assessment sheets to monitor and record children's progress and to identify their next steps for learning. She plans and adapts activities according to children's individual needs and to ensure that each child reaches their full potential. Planning is flexible in order to respond to children's interests, so that they are engaged and happy in their play and learning. Children are able to make their own choices, as there is a good balance between adult-led and child-led activities. The childminder interacts very well with the minded children, as she spends time reading stories and taking opportunities to help children develop their skills. For example, when a two-year-old child is building with bricks, she counts with them, asks how many bricks there are adding to the tower, and gives lots of praise as the child confidently names the colour of each brick he is using.

Children make very good progress in their social skills and confidence as they attend a number of different toddler groups throughout the week. They also have opportunities for outdoor activities on a daily basis, including walks in the local community, visits to the park and using the well resourced outdoor space. They also visit local shops where they are able to buy items for planned activities, including ingredients for baking sessions. There are also great opportunities to use the computer and use books to look at the wider world, as well as celebrating cultural events and festivals.

Good health and wellbeing are promoted as the childminder uses information on children's dietary and health needs appropriately. Written health and welfare policies and procedures, including a detailed sickness policy are shared with

parents so that they are aware of expectations. Hygiene procedures are promoted as children are encouraged to wash their hands at appropriate times; however, they do not have access to individual towels. Meals are provided by parents, while the childminder provides healthy snacks, and takes opportunities to talk to children about healthy eating. Children have good knowledge of safety whilst out and about with the childminder, as she discusses how to stay safe when crossing the road and walking alongside busy roads.

Children are happy and settled in the childminder's home. She is very responsive, kind and patient with the children and ensures they feel comfortable, secure and confident. Children are very well behaved, have very good manners and respond very well to the childminder's routines and boundaries. They are happy to help with tidying up and respond well to praise and encouragement.

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

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| 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

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| 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

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| 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

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| 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 has been one complaint made to Ofsted since registration. Ofsted visited the provider in November 2004 with regard to the complaint and an action was set relating to safety. The provider remains qualified for 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.