

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	318878
Inspection date	19/12/2008
Inspector	Kathleen Snowdon
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 1992. She lives with her husband and two grown up children, in a residential area of Newcastle-upon-Tyne. There is level access to her home, which is close to all facilities including local schools and nurseries. The whole ground floor is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outdoor play. The family has two pet cats. The childminder is on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register.

She is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time. Currently, there are five children in the early years age group on roll; older children also attend. All the children attend at staggered intervals. The childminder walks or uses the car to take children to and from local schools and nurseries and she supports children who speak English as an additional language. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and of Newcastle East Childminding Network.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Excellent priority is given to inclusion and every child's individual needs are met in full. Children make excellent progress in their learning and development and very good regard is given to their welfare. The childminder's home is welcoming although indoor space is limited. The childminder effectively uses self-assessment to evaluate her practice and identify areas for improvement. Her collaboration with parents and other professionals contributes to the very good quality care and education she provides.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

To further improve the high quality early years provision the registered person should consider:

- provide adequate indoor space to give children scope for free movement and well-spread activities.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder's excellent knowledge of individual children enables her to meet all their welfare needs. This is demonstrated in the way she gives exceptional regard to keeping children safe. For example, she introduces themes, such as road safety, into role play. This raises children's awareness of hazards and reinforces what they learn about staying safe in real life situations, such as crossing the road. As well as this, the childminder carries out thorough risk assessments and has excellent knowledge of safeguarding. This minimises risk and protects children from unsuitable people.

The childminder gives excellent priority to documentation. All essential records are in place and readily available for inspection. Records are stored securely to protect confidentiality and details are amended as soon as changes occur to keep information up to date and accurate. The registration certificate is prominently displayed as is a poster that explains how parents can make a complaint. Detailed and informative written policies are in place. These are shared with parents to give them an insight into the childminder's aims and objectives.

Partnership with parents is outstanding. Parents have highly positive views of the childminder and the service she provides. They describe her as 'kind, calm and very caring', say her home is 'stimulating' for young children and rate her service as 'brilliant'. Daily diaries are used and daily discussions take place. These effective arrangements keep both the childminder and parents very well informed of the children's recent experiences and allow both parties an opportunity to share observations of the children.

The childminder has established strong links with other childminders and receives guidance from local authority support workers. She reflects on her practice through self-assessment and frequently participates in relevant training. Recent courses include equality and diversity, safeguarding, food hygiene and an infant care practitioners course. As well as this, recommendations made at the last inspection have been fully addressed. This exemplifies the childminder's very good capacity to make improvements.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Excellent relationships exist between the childminder and the children. The children receive her complete attention at all times. As a result, they are happy, secure and very well supported as they play and practise emerging skills, such as reading and writing. All the children, including those who speak English as an additional language, have very good scope to acquire new vocabulary. For example, the childminder asks questions pertaining to the activities the children are involved in; this encourages them to focus, think critically and use descriptive language.

Perceptive and accurate observation and assessment of the children enables the childminder to plan exciting activities based on the children's personal interests. Plans cover all areas of learning so the children make excellent progress in all areas of their development. There is also an extensive range of good quality, developmentally appropriate toys and resources. This is readily accessible to the children allowing them to make choices and initiate play. However, the equipment is scattered which restricts the children's capacity to move freely and spread out activities.

The children thoroughly enjoy outdoor activities and being active in general. They have great fun as they play in the childminder's garden where they use skipping ropes, try to limbo dance and pretend to be cheer-leaders. This teaches the children that exercise is fun and contributes to their physical development, as do

the appetising and well-balanced meals and snacks they eat. This is consolidated by consistent routines, such as hand-washing after using the bathroom and before eating, which teaches children about the importance of personal hygiene.

The outings programme is excellent. The children visit local parks, the city centre, museums and concert halls, which acquaints them with the wider world. They enjoy meeting new friends at toddler groups where they acquire important social skills and learn how to interact with others. Very good guidance from the childminder helps the children to cope with these different experiences. Her clear and sensitive explanations help children to behave acceptably, teach them to respect themselves and others and help them to understand right from wrong.

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?	1
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	1
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?	1
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?	1
How well are children safeguarded?	1

Quality and standards

How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?	1
How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?	1
How well are children helped to stay safe?	1
How well are children helped to be healthy?	1
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	1
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

The provider confirms that the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register are:

Met

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.