

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY365265
Inspection date	10/02/2009
Inspector	Janet Fairhurst
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 2007. She lives with her husband on a new housing estate in Consett. The premises is easily accessible. Local amenities in the area include parks, library, shops, sports and leisure facilities and open countryside. The whole of the ground floor is available for childminding purposes. There is an enclosed garden available for outdoor play.

The family pet is a cat.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association. She is registered on the Early Years Register to care for four children at any one time, and is currently caring for two minded children as well as her grandchild. She is also registered on the compulsory and voluntary part of the Childcare Register.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is satisfactory. The childminder provides a warm and inclusive environment where children are secure and happy. Children are making progress within the Early Years Foundation framework however, methods of observations and assessments are still in the early stages. Sufficient resources are made available to children, although resources which reflect equality and diversity are limited. Children's individual needs are generally supported well by the childminder. She is keen to make improvements and through her self evaluation process has identified several areas for development.

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 of observation and assessment to include links to the areas of learning and to reflect the next step to children's learning
- continue to build up resources which reflect equality and diversity.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder organises her daily routines well to meet the individual needs of the children in her care, consequently, they are happy and confident in her home. She takes sound steps to ensure children are cared for in a safe and secure environment. Written risk assessments are in place to identify potential hazards in the home, garden and outings. All the required documentation and consents are in place to support the care and welfare of the children attending. There are some policies and procedures in place which are used well to promote the welfare of children. The childminder has a sound understanding of child protection and knows what to do if she has concerns for a child.

The childminder has positive relationships with parents and provides them with access to her policies and procedures. The childminder works effectively with the parents to find out about children's needs, and the daily exchange of information is supported by the use of daily diaries. The childminder has started to evaluate her own practice and has effectively identified several areas for development. This includes accessing additional training over the coming year such as Level 3 in learning and development. The childminder recognises the benefits of building positive relationships with other local provisions that children attend and has suitable strategies in place to ensure she is able to work effectively to provide children with consistency of care.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The childminder promotes children's welfare, learning and development, so that children make satisfactory progress. She has a sound understanding of learning through play and supports children appropriately. The childminder plans activities for children that provide them with varied experiences across the six areas of learning. She observes children and makes notes on their achievements. The childminder uses both notes and photographic evidence to support these. At present the observations made are not linked to the areas of learning and children's next steps are not identified within them.

The childminder has built up good relationships with the children in her care who are happy and settled. Children have space to move and play freely. A selection of appropriate toys are available for the children to play all of which can be accessed easily. The childminder knows the children well and uses various methods to develop their understanding of subjects, such as colour, size and number through her verbal encouragement, clear explanations and open questioning. Children have some opportunities to learn about others and their different cultural backgrounds however, resources in this area are limited. Children benefit from a suitable range of activities and regular outings where they have opportunities to socialise and for large physical play. Children enjoy stories and have opportunities to use pencils and crayons to write and draw. Children have regular opportunities to play outside and enjoy outings to outside play areas and parks, which help them develop new skills and learn about nature and the environment.

Children's health is promoted well. The childminder encourages even very young children to learn about personal hygiene as they learn to wash their hands before eating and dry them on their own towels. The childminder works with parents regarding their wishes for the provision of food. They are advised about the childminder's responsibility towards promoting healthy eating and children are encouraged to make their own healthy choices for example as they are asked to choose which types of fresh fruit they wish to eat for a snack. Drinks of milk or fresh orange juice are kept within easy reach of the children. The premises are locked while children are present and stair gates restrict access to certain areas so that children can explore their environment safely. Children learn about dangers for example, they know they must wait for the 'green man' to show before they cross the road. The childminder has a clear written evacuation procedure and all fire precautions are in place. Children's behaviour is managed in a positive way

through praise and distraction. The house rules are realistic and positive and encourage children to respect each other and their environment. As a result children play well together and are learning good manners and respect.

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?	3
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	3
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	3

Leadership and management

How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?	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

How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?	3
How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?	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?	3

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:

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:

- devise a written statement of procedures to follow in relation to complaints made by parents (CR7.1) 24/02/2009
- devise and implement a written statement of procedures to be followed for the protection of children, intended to safeguard the children being cared for (CR2.1). 24/02/2009

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 Childcare section of the report (CR7.1) 24/02/2009
- take action as specified in the Childcare section of the report (CR2.1). 24/02/2009

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.