

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	311640
Inspection date	09/02/2009
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 August 1992. She lives with her husband and two adult children in the Whickham area of Gateshead. The family home is on the local bus route and easily accessible by car. Amenities include schools, nursery and toddler groups. The living room is used for childminding purposes which is accessed via a number of stairs. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for six children under eight at any one time. There are currently 12 children on roll, four of whom are in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) age range. The childminder is also registered on the compulsory and voluntary Childcare Register. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall, the quality of the provision is satisfactory. The childminder provides a welcoming inclusive environment where children are secure and happy. Children are making sufficient progress, however, methods of observation, planning and assessment are in the early stages. Positive relationships with parents have been established, although the links with other providers and the systems to share children's progress with parents are not yet fully established. Most of the required records are in place. The childminder has no formal systems in place to reflect and evaluate the service she provides, however, she demonstrates a satisfactory attitude towards personal development and has the capacity to maintain the continuous improvement of the provision.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- develop further observation and assessment systems to ensure that children's learning and development is clearly identified and used effectively to plan appropriate play and learning experiences which help children to progress to the next step in their learning and development
- develop working relationships with other providers who deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage to ensure activities are complementary and promote continuity and progression for children and ensure parents are actively involved in their child's learning
- develop systems of self-evaluation to identify the setting's strengths and priorities for development that will help to improve the quality of the provision for example, by using the Ofsted self-evaluation form.

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

- ensure written parental permission is requested, at the 23/02/2009

time of the child's admission to the provision, to the seeking of any necessary emergency medical advice or treatment (Safeguarding and promoting children's welfare).

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder has developed a basic risk assessment to help promote children's safety in the home, for example, through the use of safety equipment such as secure stair gates. She has produced a simple set of policies and procedures to help promote the health, safety and welfare of children. Parental permissions are obtained for taking children on outings and any dietary needs are recorded. This contributes to continuity in children's care. However, parental permission for any necessary emergency medical treatment is not obtained, which is a breach of registration requirements. Children are satisfactorily protected as the childminder has a suitable awareness of safeguarding issues and children are supervised well.

Parents receive verbal information on their child's daily activities. However, they are not fully encouraged to take an active part in their child's learning journey. Several children currently being looked after by the childminder also receive the EYFS at other settings. At present, there is no formal system in place to ensure effective continuity and progression by sharing information on children with each other and parents. The childminder has not developed formal systems for evaluating her service to identify improvements. However, from discussion she has identified the need to develop her knowledge and understanding of EYFS and the systems of observation, assessment and planning.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children are content and settled in the childminder's care. She is responsive to their emotional needs and provides them with a suitable range of activities and experiences each day. The childminder is gaining familiarity with the EYFS and has begun to create individual folders for children which contain photographs of the activities enjoyed by children. However, they are not yet used effectively as there is no links made to the areas of learning nor do they show an evaluation of the impact to children's well-being and learning and how they are used to plan for the next step in their learning.

Children are supported appropriately as they play, for instance, young children request to play with the train track. They are encouraged by the childminder to plan the lay out and then helped to construct the track. The childminder extends their play by asking children to identify the colour of the different carriages and counting how many carriages they can put together. Children enjoy fresh air and learn about their local environment as they walk to the nearby park. They learn about road safety, crossing roads during the walk. They have opportunities to develop physical strength by using a range of equipment, including wheeled toys and climbing frame. Regular visits to soft play venues provide additional challenge

and the chance to mix with other children of a similar age. Social skills are also promoted by trips out with other childminders and the children they look after, visiting parent and toddler groups and child carer drop in sessions.

Children have good relationships with the childminder and each other. There is a calm atmosphere in the home and children are encouraged to be considerate of each other, sharing toys and taking turns during play. As a result, children are starting to learn collaborative skills which will help contribute to their future well-being. Children push their 'babies' around in buggies and pretend to feed their dolls. This supports their imagination in play and helps them act out real life experiences. Children's communication skills are encouraged through stories and discussion. Younger children develop their vocabulary as they look at a favourite book and pretend to read the story. Children's independence is supported as the play areas are organised to enable them to make choices in their play, for example, from the easily accessible toy boxes. Children are encouraged in sharing and being kind and they behave well together. They are regularly praised for their efforts, which helps to boost their self-esteem.

Meals are provided by the parents and are complimented by healthy snack which are provided by the childminder, such as yogurts and fresh fruit. Drinks are always made available to children to ensure they do not become dehydrated. Children are learning the importance of good hygiene as they are encouraged to wash their hands regularly especially before snacks and meals. Children's safety is considered, for instance on outings and when using the car the childminder always follows guidance with regard to appropriate safety seats used in the car.

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?	3
How well are children helped to be healthy?	3
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	3
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 be followed in relation to complaints made by parents (CR7.1)

23/02/2009

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).

23/02/2009

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 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.