

## Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique reference number</b>	321690
<b>Inspection date</b>	12/01/2009
<b>Inspector</b>	Julie Morrison
<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 1990. She lives with her husband and adult son in the Fens area of Hartlepool. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's home is used for childminding and there is a garden for outdoor play. The childminder is registered on the Early Years, compulsory Childcare and voluntary Childcare Register. She is registered to care for a maximum of six children aged under eight years and currently has two children under the age of five years on roll. She also cares for children aged over eight years. The childminder cares for children on week days from 07.30 to 18.00 for 49 weeks of the year. The childminder holds a current paediatric first aid certificate.

## **Overall effectiveness of the early years provision**

The childminder provides a warm and friendly welcome to all children and their families. She knows the children well and gathers all relevant information from parents in order to meet their individual needs. The wide range of activities and experiences she provides for children enables them to make progress whilst having fun. The childminder has begun to implement procedures to record this. Effective systems for self-evaluation and a commitment to improvement ensures that her practice continues to develop and promote positive outcomes for children.

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

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

- continue to develop procedures for recording observations and planning activities to ensure that next steps in development are implemented
- further develop relationships with other providers of the Early Years Foundation Stage to ensure continuity of care and learning.

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

The childminder has developed good links with parents who speak highly of the care and learning that their children receive. She has effective procedures in place to collect and share relevant information, ensuring that parents remain actively involved in their child's care. Daily verbal feedback and access to children's individual developmental files ensures that parents are aware of their child's progress. Parents are shown the childminder's policies and procedures, including the complaints procedure, when they first start. However, they do not receive their own written copies to supplement this. The childminder has begun to develop relationships with other providers of the Early Years Foundation Stage, however, these have not been further established to fully promote continuity of care and learning for children.

The setting benefits from a detailed range of policies and procedures which are

regularly updated and used to underpin the childminder's effective practice, including child protection, behaviour management and health and safety. These are combined with up-to-date records for attendance, medication and accidents to ensure that children are well protected. Clear written risk assessments along with regular checks of all toys and resources, further promotes children's safety. Children are effectively safeguarded as the childminder has a good understanding of the signs and symptoms of abuse, this is supported by relevant training and a clear understanding of the procedures to follow should she have any concerns.

The childminder demonstrates a positive attitude towards training. This underpins her commitment to ongoing personal development and contributes towards the good quality care she provides. Completion of the self-evaluation form, feedback from children and their parents and regular meetings with other childminder's to discuss practice, further ensures that the childminder continues to develop and monitor her practice. Effective procedures were put in place to ensure that the previous recommendation was addressed, as a result, written consent to seek emergency medical treatment is in place.

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

Space at the childminder's is well organised so that children can move around freely and access a wide range of resources. Planning is flexible, responding to the interests of the children and ensures that children are provided with good opportunities to help them make progress across all areas of learning. The childminder sits on the floor, fully involved in the children's activities, engaging and talking to them to ensure that they receive an enjoyable experience and to promote learning. For example, she encourages them to name the animals and talks about the noises that they make. The childminder is using her knowledge of the Early Years Foundation Stage to begin to record observations of the children in individual learning books. These are clearly linked to the areas of learning and supported by colourful photographs. She has used them to identify some areas of development, however, procedures to ensure that they are included in future plans are not fully in place.

A good balance of child-centred and adult-led experiences ensures that children are appropriately challenged and engaged. They enjoy exploring music boxes, banging cymbals together and shaking thunder boxes and jump excitedly when the childminder gets the toy garage for them to use with their cars. They have regular opportunities to access the computer, using appropriate software packages to further support their learning. A variety of creative activities, such as painting, sticking and play dough provides children with opportunities to develop their self-expression and have lots of fun. Whilst activities, such as baking allow children to practise measuring and counting skills. A variety of planned outdoor activities, such as trips to toddler groups, soft play along with visits to museums, the library and parks, promote children's physical development and provides them with opportunities to learn about the world around them. This is supported by opportunities to try foods from different cultures as well as celebrating well known festivals, such as Christmas, the Chinese New Year and Easter. Committed to inclusion the childminder ensures that all children are able to take part in activities,

for example, making cards for Grandfathers or Uncles on Fathers day, if appropriate.

The childminder shows a good understanding of promoting children's health, providing nutritious freshly cooked meals and regular drinks for the children. She holds a current food hygiene certificate and ensures that all surfaces are regularly cleaned. Consistent hand washing and named pegs to hold individual hand towels further helps to reduce the risk of cross-infection. Children are kept safe as the childminder implements effective safety procedures and equipment, for example, locked doors and fire guards. Regularly practising regular fire drills along with discussions about road safety and stranger danger help to support children to learn how to keep themselves safe. Children have clearly formed secure relationships with the childminder. They come to her for comfort and she recognises when they are tired. This is combined with clear behaviour management techniques implemented by the childminder, who acts as a good role model to encourage children to learn 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

<b>How effective is the provision in meeting the needs of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage?</b>	2
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	2
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	2

### Leadership and management

<b>How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?</b>	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

<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>	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](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:	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 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.