

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY381654
Inspection date	06/03/2009
Inspector	Vivienne Dempsey
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 2008 and lives in the Bishop Cuthbert area of Hartlepool with her husband and their four children who are aged 22, 18, 14 and 13 years. The home is close to local primary schools, play parks and shops. Minded children have the use of the whole of the ground floor. There is also a rear garden available for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for up to six children under eight years at any one time. There are five children under the age of five on roll. She has experience of working with children and has two level 3 childcare qualifications. The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and on the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is outstanding. All children are extremely well cared for in a very friendly and welcoming environment. The childminder recognises the uniqueness of each child and works exceptionally well with parents to meet each child's individual needs. She has an excellent understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) care, learning and development requirements, which she implements effectively to fully promote outcomes for children in her care. The childminder is highly motivated and recognises the value for continuous improvement to promote achievement for all children.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- further develop resources and provide time for children to enjoy energetic play daily.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

Parents are highly valued and effective communication links means there is a two-way flow of information, knowledge and expertise between parents and the childminder. For example, the childminder consistently provides parents with information regarding their child's progress and also provides information of activities parents can do at home to complement learning at the setting. Parents are extremely pleased with the care their children receive and describe the childminder as 'enthusiastic' and 'professional'. They value the 'stimulating learning environment', which the childminder provides and how well she adapts resources and activities to meet their children's learning needs 'on a daily basis'.

The childminder provides a very caring and professional service. She demonstrates

excellent organisational skills and has a wide range of policies and procedures in place that underpin her practice effectively. She uses her excellent knowledge of EYFS learning and development requirements to plan an interesting and stimulating learning environment for all children. The childminder knows children very well and ensures that all children's development and welfare are extremely well promoted.

The childminder has attended a wide range of training and has a thorough knowledge and understanding of safeguarding children issues. An effective safeguarding children policy and procedure is in place, helping to protect children from abuse or neglect. The premises both indoors and outdoors are secure and a visitors book is in place. Risks are identified and minimised, keeping children safe.

The childminder is highly motivated and committed to continuous improvement. This committed approach is evident by its impact on the children. For example, a wide range of stimulating and motivating learning opportunities are available for all children, which meet their interests and stage of development. She works closely with parents and outside agencies to develop her extremely good practice and promote outcomes for all children and their families.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children thoroughly enjoy their time with the childminder and are observed to be extremely secure and relaxed in her company. The childminder has a very pleasant manner, caring approach and a genuine interest in all children do, which helps them to become confident and get on extremely well together. She is an exceptionally good role model and children's behaviour is excellent and pre-school children show concern for their younger friends. This concern is developed as the childminder clearly explains the babies non verbal signals so the pre-school children know how to respond to their actions.

The childminder supports children's play highly effectively. She introduces challenges, questions them and suggests new ideas, all of which help children progress quickly in their learning. The childminder has a extremely good knowledge of the six areas of learning and provides a stimulating range of experiences for the children daily. Close observations of children's play and development leads to planning for their future learning so that learning is progressive, subsequently, children make very good progress towards the early learning goals. Children's progress is recorded in their 'learning journey' and parents provide comments on children's learning in the setting and at home. Daily diaries are also provided for parents to keep them regularly informed of their child's progress.

Children experience a good balance of self-chosen play and adult-led activities. Pre-school children are motivated to learn and enjoy playing in the sand with the pirates, boats, driftwood and treasure chests. This helps to develop their imagination and learn about the properties of sand. Children enjoy sharing the 'story sack' which pre-school children bring from the local nursery school. The childminder ensures all children are involved and use resources appropriately for

the children's different stages of development, developing children's communication and language skills. Babies enjoy playing with the wide variety of different balls and discovery bottles, developing babies early exploring and investigating skills.

The childminder provides a very clean and secure environment, where children can move around confidently and safely. Children benefit from being outside in the fresh air frequently and enjoy growing a range of vegetables in the garden and exploring for mini-beasts. They visit local playgroups where they have good opportunities to move freely with pleasure and confidence in a range of ways. However, opportunities for children to enjoy energetic play daily is sometimes limited. The childminder has very good systems in place to help children understand and adopt healthy habits, such as good hygiene practices. For example, all children have their own distinct towels and toothbrushes.

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.	1

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?	1
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?	1
How well are children helped develop skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being?	1

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
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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 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.