

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	311704
Inspection date	12/02/2009
Inspector	Shirley Peart
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 1997. The provision is registered on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. She lives on the outskirts of Crawcrook, which is situated in the west of Gateshead, with her husband and children aged 15 and 12 years. The home is accessible by some stone steps. The whole of the ground floor of the home is used solely for childminding purposes, which consists of an entrance lobby, playroom and separate bathroom. There is an enclosed yard for outside play.

The childminder is registered to take a maximum of six children aged under eight years at any one time. There are currently five children attending who are within the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) age group. The childminder also offers care to one child aged over five years and four children attend who are aged over eight years. Children attend on various days and times throughout the week.

She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

There are two pet cats on the premises which are kept on the first floor of the home.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Children's welfare, learning and development needs are superbly enhanced as they are cared for by an enthusiastic and dedicated childminder who is devoted to each child in her care. She has a clear understanding of how to meet young children's needs as she treats each one as a unique individual. She has an excellent understanding of the EYFS and works effectively with parents and other provisions that children attend, so that successful partnership working is in place. She continually reflects on her practice and does her utmost to ensure that the Every Child Matters outcomes are successfully promoted for each child.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- updating the Ofsted telephone number in the complaints policy.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder is very experienced and highly dedicated to her career and the children in her care. She works very hard to continually improve her already excellent provision by reviewing and reflecting on her practice and by using the Ofsted self-evaluation system. She has made very good improvements since the last inspection and moving to new premises has enabled her to dedicate the whole

of the ground floor of the home to her childminding. Therefore, the organisation of the childminding provision is exceptional and provides a fantastic child friendly, welcoming environment for children and parents. The entrance lobby displays children's photographs of what they do, useful information for parents is prominently displayed and housing for children's coats and shoes, aids their independence and sense of belonging.

The childminder is committed to her own self-development and promoting high quality care for children. For example, she attends relevant training and arranges meetings with other childminders and a local authority development worker, so that they can share new information and disseminate good practice.

The childminder's risk assessments are highly comprehensive. She uses effective systems that scrutinise hazards inside, outside and on outings to ensure that children are safe at all times. Documentation and information is comprehensive and includes a range of required policies, such as, child protection, inclusion and equal opportunities. The Ofsted information poster and telephone number is also prominently displayed, but the telephone number for Ofsted in the complaints policy is out of date.

Partnership with parents is excellent. They are very pleased with the care offered as highly positive written comments include, 'we have complete trust in her' and she provides a 'very high standard of care' and the 'learning environment is outstanding.' She works effectively with the parents to ensure that children's individual needs are effectively met. Therefore, they settle quickly with her and adapt to their new surroundings because she ensures that they feel secure and special. She exchanges appropriate information with the parents and relevant nursery and school staff, so that effective partnerships are built up and continuity of care and learning for the children is well established.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

A highly enabling, rich and safe environment is provided so that children's welfare, learning and development is extremely well promoted. Children who have recently started to walk move around freely and safely and the childminder ensures that they do not trip on their clothes. All children have easy access to an excellent range of sturdy, safe toys, such as low level wooden play kitchen units and items. The bathroom area is hygienically organised and easily accessible for the children. For example, individual towels on named pegs at child height enable children as young as two-years-old to recognise the first letters of their name, as they successfully find their own peg. Keeping children safe and healthy is given high priority. The childminder offers gentle reminders to children as to why they should not run inside and how they can learn to keep themselves safe when playing outdoors. She also plans fun activities to help them learn about staying safe, such as a 'Beep Beep' day. Children's independence and personal, social and emotional development is exceptionally well promoted as the childminder has an excellent understanding of children's individual needs. They are encouraged to make decisions as they choose the colour plates and bowls that they would like to use for their lunch and help to make their own sandwich wraps with fresh ingredients.

Toddlers sleep comfortably in their buggy and when they wake up the childminder quickly offers lots of reassurance and cuddles so that they feel secure and loved.

The childminder has highly effective planning and assessment systems in place, which she uses well to track children's progress throughout the aspects within the areas of learning. She demonstrates an excellent understanding of children's individual learning and development needs and her systematic observations reflect this knowledge extremely well. The childminder has worked very hard to collate her observations, photographs and captions to produce children's individual 'learning journey' files, which provide wonderful information on children's progress throughout the areas of learning. These are available at all times for the parents to view.

The childminder also has a very good understanding of how to put the EYFS into practice on a daily basis. For example, when she changes toys around she conscientiously puts out specific toys, such as early ICT (information and communication technology) equipment like programmable, musical and manipulative toys that children clearly enjoy using. They successfully turn toys on and off and independently move knobs and wheels on small world toys with good control.

Children are extremely happy and confident during their play. They use natural, heuristic materials, such as wooden batons with streamers and sturdy cardboard cylinders. They love sitting with the childminder using puppets and giggle as they watch the 'Peter Rabbit' puppet hide inside the cabbage. They are highly animated as they sing happily, confidently finishing the ends of songs that they have learnt. They successfully manage to hold and stretch the sheet of lycra shaking it in time to their singing, which enhances their creative and physical development extremely well. An excellent photographic display and captions of people who the children are familiar with in the local community, such as shop assistants, window cleaner and librarians, are prominently on show. This gives children an excellent sense of belonging and a good awareness of positive images and differences within the community. Children are confident as they speak or make gestures, they talk about or demonstrate what they do and how toys work and are beginning to use mathematical language correctly during play, therefore, their all round development is superbly enhanced.

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 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.