

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	300052
Inspection date	24/04/2009
Inspector	Yvonne Victoria Facey
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 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 a registered childminder since 1989. She lives with her husband and two adult sons in Sheffield. The property is situated within easy walking distance of the local schools and park. The areas of the home to be used for childminding purposes include lounge and dining room, kitchen and first floor bathroom. There is an enclosed garden available for outdoor play.

She is registered to care for a maximum of six children under the age of eight years at any one time. There are currently 12 children on roll, of which four are in the early years age group. The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register, and on the voluntary and compulsory parts of the Childcare Register. She is a member of the Sheffield Childminding Association.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is good. The childminder provides a safe, secure and welcoming environment for children, where all requirements are being met. The high standards of the quality for learning and development, ensures that children make very good progress. Self evaluation of the provision, reflects good evaluation of the service provided, and parents and children's views are considered in future plans to improve. The childminder recognises that partnerships with parents and other providers are important to all children's learning, and she continues to develop this area.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- continue to develop partnership working with other early years providers to enhance children's learning and development.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder has a good understanding of the Early Years Framework, and ensures she meets requirements to ensure children are safe and their individual learning and care needs are met. She has established positive partnerships with parents. All the required information regarding children's individual needs, such as dietary requirements and personal details are obtained from parents. Parents are able to contribute to the quality of the provision because the childminder consults with them on a regular basis. For example, she uses questionnaires and uses the information gathered to improve her service. The childminder has begun to develop links with other providers delivering the Early Years Foundation Stage, mainly discussing with the parents what activities children are engaged in at school and nursery. Further systems are being explored to make stronger links to ensure children's learning and care are continued.

The childminder effectively maintains detailed policies and procedures that are regularly updated, which supports the safe and effective management of her provision. Detailed risk assessments are undertaken to monitor and minimise any potential hazards to children. An emergency evacuation plan is in place and it is regularly practised with all the children enabling them to understand what to do if there was a fire. Children are protected from harm or neglect, as the childminder has a good understanding of safeguarding. The childminder demonstrates a good approach and attitude to making improvements to her provision, and she has successfully addressed the recommendations from the last inspection.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The childminder's good knowledge of the learning and development requirements and the stimulating environment she provides, enables children to make very good progress across all areas of learning. There are sound recording systems in place, that link children's starting points, observations of what children have achieved and their next steps in learning. This information is then used to plan interesting activities for all children. There are plenty of opportunities for children to develop their numeracy skills and they learn to take turns and share. For example, older children can recognise numbers and count the spaces they have to move when they play 'the hungry caterpillar game'. Children enjoy outdoor play experiences and are provided with a very good variety of resources that help them explore and enhance their learning opportunities. For example, they use different sized paint brushes with water to make marks, and have a competition to see who can squirt the water pistol the furthest. They plant tomatoes and sun flowers which develops their awareness living things and changes. Children are confident and independent. They move around their environment with interest and excitement. For instance, children tell the childminder that they are going outside to play in the tent and that they can put on their own coats and shoes.

Children are learning about keeping themselves safe during everyday experiences and activities. For example, they visit the fire station and discuss why they should not approach dogs they do not know. Healthy life styles are discussed with the children, such as the importance of exercise, healthy foods and personal hygiene. The childminder has also joined the 'change for life programme', which helps children actively take responsibility for their own health. The childminder encourages children to respect each other and understand they are different. They have good opportunities to discuss themselves and other activities that influence their lives. For example, they have photographs of family christenings. Children are highly motivated and are extremely engrossed in their learning. As a result they are active learners making very good progress in their learning.

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?	2
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	2
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	2

Leadership and management

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

How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?	2
How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?	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

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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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