

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	302669
Inspection date	27/04/2009
Inspector	Maralyn Chiverton
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 registered since 1995. She is registered to care for a maximum of six children under the age of eight years. She currently cares for nine children on the Early Years Register on a part time basis. The provision is also registered on the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. The childminder is currently caring for children over the age of five years and supports children with additional needs.

The childminder lives in Carlton, on the outskirts of Barnsley with her husband and two adult children. All ground floor rooms are used for childminding purposes. There is an enclosed rear garden which is used for outdoor play. The house is within walking distance of local amenities, such as schools, the library, shops and parks. She takes children to and from school as well as to places of interest and is a member of the National Childminding Association and local childminding network.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of care is outstanding. The childminder has an exceptionally high regard for the individuality of each child in her care as well as a highly comprehensive understanding of their specific needs which ensures all aspects of children's safety, welfare and learning are promoted. She is totally committed to providing an inclusive environment where every child matters. The childminder ensures that children are provided with a varied and imaginative range of activities and experiences which extensively promotes learning in all six areas. A formal, detailed, self-evaluation system is extremely effective in identifying strengths and areas for improvement. An excellent partnership with parents and other external agencies contributes exceptionally well to the quality of care and education offered.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- continue to use the self-evaluation procedure to identify future targets for improvement ensuring continuous improvement across all areas of the provision.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The implementation of all mandatory documentation, as well as meticulously detailed policies and procedures, ensures the safe and efficient management of the Early Years Foundation Stage, as well as meeting children's individual needs and further enhancing their safety and welfare. Risks to children are effectively managed and eliminated through the use of well written, detailed risk assessments

policies, which are reviewed on an annual basis. Children are kept safe through the childminder's highly comprehensive understanding of her role and responsibility with regard to child protection issues. The childminder is totally committed to the provision of quality care and education. She has a recognised early years qualification and constantly seeks information to keep her updated on early years issues. The childminder has continued to improve her service through regularly attending training. For example, she has recently attended training on how to include geography into knowledge and understanding of the world.

Children with additional needs are exceptionally well supported through the childminder's comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the issues concerning such children as well as highly effective partnerships with parents and others. For example, the childminder has been pro-active in arranging Makaton training at home for herself and the children she cares for to support a child with additional needs. The childminder self-evaluates her provision in a formal and detailed way. She is aware of the need to use self-evaluation as a working tool, to ensure future strengths and targets for improvement across all areas of her provision are clearly identified.

Excellent links with parents and other providers compliments children's learning and has a significant, positive impact on the continuity of care offered. The childminder spends time talking to parents and gathering information before a child starts. This enables her to find out about children's interests and starting points, she is then able to plan and provide appropriate activities and resources to support each child. Individual assessment files provide parents with information about their child's development and achievements. A copy of all policies and procedures used to underpin the running of the provision is given to parents who sign to say they have read and understood them.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The childminder is highly skilled and actively involves herself in children's learning which provides an excellent contribution to children's, enjoyment, achievement and the ability to take an active part in the setting. She is highly motivated, enthusiastic and has an excellent awareness and understanding of her role and responsibilities in developing children's learning. The childminder has a comprehensive understanding of how children learn through play and uses children's interests to further extend their learning. Play is well planned and purposeful with an equal balance of adult-led and child initiated activities for both indoor and outdoor play. This ensures children are offered optimal challenge and make excellent progress in all six areas of learning. Observation and assessment procedures are rigorous and effective in promoting and extending children's progress. This significantly enhances the care and education offered.

Younger children particularly enjoy using their imaginative skills when using a hoist to lift pretend bales of straw. They learn social skills and enjoy being with other children. The childminder allows children to seek to do things for themselves whilst ensuring she is close by to offer support and help if needed. Babies and younger children are able to investigate sounds and music from a selection of resources

such as activity centres and musical instruments. They are offered a very good variety of natural materials to promote their curiosity as well as having access to a bubble mirror to see themselves. Older children make Chinese masks to promote their awareness of the wider world and visits to places of interest promotes well children's awareness of their local environment. Children work cooperatively together and learn about mathematical concepts such as filling and emptying containers and weight and volume through planned opportunities and initiated play.

Children are kept free from infection through the implementation of a detailed sick child policy which effectively minimises the risk of risk of cross-infection from illness. Children enjoy a healthy well-balanced diet which includes fresh fruit and vegetables and have access to a well-resourced outdoor area which helps to promotes enjoyment of exercise as well as physical development. They are encouraged to keep themselves safe through following set boundaries in the home. The childminder uses lots of praise to raise children's self-esteem which encourages children to develop the habits and behaviour appropriate to good learners.

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

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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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