

## Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique reference number</b>	311617
<b>Inspection date</b>	06/05/2009
<b>Inspector</b>	Janet Fairhurst
<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 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 1999. She lives on an established residential housing estate in Whickham Gateshead with her husband and 17 year old child. The minded children have access to the conservatory, kitchen and playroom. There is an enclosed garden available for outside play. There are schools, pre-school and toddler groups within the local area, as well as parks, shops and local amenities.

The family has a pet dog.

The childminder is registered to take a maximum of six children. There are currently four children attending who are within the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) age group. The childminder also offers care to six children aged over five years. The provision is registered on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

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

Overall the quality of the provision is good. Children are fully engaged with activities that take into account their interests and developmental stage, promoting progress across all areas of learning and ensuring inclusion. Children are safe and their welfare is promoted well whilst arrangements for safeguarding children are robust. Risk assessments for the home are comprehensive but do not cover specific outings. The childminder has established procedures for self-evaluation that enable her to recognise strengths and areas for development and implement change for improved outcomes.

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

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

- develop risk assessments further to include each type of outing that is undertaken.

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

Children's welfare and development are well promoted as the childminder has very good knowledge and understanding of how to meet their needs. This is because the childminder is committed to developing her knowledge by attending regular training courses, covering aspects such as first aid, food hygiene and the EYFS. Children experience good levels of direct support and attention as the childminder is attentive to their individual routines. She allows ample time for children to play, whilst ensuring their individual sleeping, eating and toileting needs are organised smoothly around the school run.

The childminder works closely with parents, identifying specific needs, including medical, dietary or developmental needs, early in the arrangement to ensure that children receive appropriate support. She has a flexible approach and follows the wishes of parents with regard to the differing methods used to exchange information for example, some parents prefer verbal exchange whilst others enjoy reading the children's daily diaries.

Children are protected because the childminder has an excellent understanding of her role in safeguarding children and is confident to put procedures into practice where necessary. The childminder organises her home to ensure it is safe and free from hazards and children can access all areas and resources safely. Thorough risk assessments are carried out on all areas of the childminder's home and daily checks take place before the children arrive, protecting children in a safe and secure environment. A general risk assessment has been drawn up to cover outings however, this information does not include specific outings which are undertaken on a regular basis.

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

Children make good progress in their learning and development, effectively supported by the childminder. The childminder develops a good understanding of children's starting points as she gathers initial information from parents and uses this as a basis to develop assessment records for each child. Individual learning journey folders are developed, showing progression and identified next steps, together with spontaneous and narrative observations. The childminder takes time to ensure the assessment records are meaningful by including many photographs and examples of the children's creative work.

Children confidently select equipment from low level storage boxes or shelves and know where to find the resources they want. This allows children to choose how they spend their time and they are happy and relaxed in the childminder's company. They are engaged and motivated to learn because their play and learning are led from their interests. For example, the childminder provides a wider range of different puzzles for children when she observes that they enjoy the challenge of completing puzzles. She skilfully extends children's learning as she encourages them to count the number of small world characters they have placed in the house, sensitively counting along to support them. Children are proud of their achievements, as the childminder praises them for working out how to close the door of a toy, promoting and encouraging their problem solving skills well.

Children are creative and regularly explore textures and properties of paint, glue and dough. They explore their local environment and study the seasons through visits to the parks and play areas where they can also practice and develop their physical skills. They have opportunities to watch plants grow as they take an active role in planting sunflower seeds. They compare the size and shape of the conkers they find during their walks which they then sort into groups and share with each other. This fun approach to learning through play has a significant impact on children's keenness and enthusiasm to learning.

Children learn to keep themselves healthy as they share healthy snacks and meals and have daily fresh air and exercise. Hand washing routines are followed and children know the reasons for good hygiene. Clear policies and procedures ensure that children do not attend when they are infectious and they are very well cared for if they become unwell or have an accident. The children are treated with kindness and respect and are learning to share, take turns and respect others. The childminder uses effective strategies to encourage children to behave well and offers choices, praise and encouragement to develop their confidence and self-esteem.

## 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:

Not Met (with actions)

The provider confirms that the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register are:

Not Met (with actions)

The registered provider does not meet the requirements of the compulsory and or voluntary part/s of the Childcare Register.

To comply with the requirements of the compulsory part of the Childcare Register, the registered person must take the following action/s by the specified date:

- devise a written statement of procedures to be followed in relation to complaints made by parents (CR7.1) 29/05/2009
- devise and implement a written statement of procedures to be followed for the protection of children, intended to safeguard the children being cared for (CR2.1). 29/05/2009

To comply with the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register, the registered person must take the following action/s by the specified date:

- take action as specified in the Childcare section of the report (CR7.1) 29/05/2009
- take action as specified in the Childcare section of the report (CR2.1). 29/05/2009