

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	300080
Inspection date	31/07/2009
Inspector	Hilary Mary Mckenning
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).

Children only attend this setting before and/or after the school day and/or during the school holidays. The judgements in this report reflect the quality of early years provision offered to children during those periods.

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 1997. She lives with her husband and their two adult daughters. The family live in a house which is situated in the High Green area of Sheffield. They are close to local schools, bus routes, park and other amenities. The ground floor rooms are available for childminding along with the upstairs bathroom and main bedroom. There are enclosed gardens at the front and rear of the house which are available for outdoor play. The childminder and her husband is also approved as foster parents. The family has a small dog. They also have lizards which are kept in a tank.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time. There is currently one child on roll in the early years age group. The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register, as well as the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. The childminder works with children with special needs. She has a relevant childcare qualification.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall, the quality of the provision is satisfactory. The childminder provides a calm environment where children are happy, confident and access a variety of resources and experiences where they can learn about themselves and explore differences. Most of the required documentation is in place and maintained appropriately. However, the provider does not hold a valid first aid certificate and some procedures do not include the necessary details and registers do not reflect the times children attend.

Close partnerships with parents ensure that the childminder is aware of children's individual needs are met appropriately and contribute to developing observation and assessments of children's achievements. However, the planning of activities is very much in its infancy and does not identify the next steps in children's learning. The childminder is beginning to evaluate her service and assess her strengths and weaknesses to identify areas for improvement.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- further develop procedure for dealing with complaints to include timescales
- develop and plan suitable activities to help children's progression towards the early learning goals and monitor and assess their progression
- further develop the attendance register to include the hours that children attend.

To fully meet the specific requirements of the EYFS, the registered person must:

- complete an appropriate paediatric first aid course by 21/08/2009

21/08/2009.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

Children are happy and settled with the childminder, which contributes to their well-being. The childminder has a positive relationship with children and their parents and information is shared regularly with parents through the use of a daily diary. Parents are invited to contribute what they know about their child's needs and interests. This enables the childminder to meet the individual needs of children appropriately. She has started to evaluate some areas of her practice to identify strengths and weaknesses in order to ensure further improvement.

The childminder is becoming familiar with the Early Years Foundation Stage and is beginning to use her knowledge to develop her provision. She is beginning to make observations of children's achievements, which she shares with their parents. However, children's next steps in their learning and development are not clearly identified in order to plan and provide appropriately. Parents are kept fully informed about their child's day and what they achieve each day by receiving verbal and written information. For example, a detailed daily diary book is used and observation records are routinely shared.

Children are cared for in a secure and welcoming environment as the childminder completes a daily health and safety checklist. Safe and suitable toys and resources are easily accessible. The childminder does not hold a valid first aid certificate, which is a breach in the requirements. However, she has enrolled on a first aid course in order to up date her certificate. Most records are clear and up-to-date. However, registers do not clearly record the times children attend. The childminder has good knowledge of how to protect children and is vigilant about signs and symptoms of possible abuse. She is well aware of the procedures to follow should she have concerns about a child. Parents receive information regarding the policies and procedures as well as any updated versions which ensure they are kept informed about the care their children receive.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children are cared for in a warm and welcoming environment. Their welfare, learning and development is promoted as the childminder plans easily accessible resources to meet individual children's needs. There is sufficient space available for children to move around safely and independently.

Children learn about healthy eating as all food is nutritious and meets individual dietary requirements as they enjoy a variety of healthy snacks. There are appropriate routines in place that promote good hygiene and protect children's health. Babies and toddlers are introduced to appropriate hygiene routines as they are encouraged to wash their hands following nappy changing. The childminder organises the space appropriately to provide children with easy access to a variety of resources appropriate to their needs and interests. The childminder gets to

know children well and spends time playing and talking with them. Babies are introduced to numbers as the childminder counts the number of large building blocks they have put together. Younger children show delight and giggle as the childminder reads their favourite book.

Children make a positive contribution by becoming involved in all areas of play. Children are encouraged to share, be kind and have mutual respect for others. Older children interact well with the younger children as they laugh and giggle together as the older child plays the recorder. Children explore the immediate environment with interest, building on their natural curiosity as they enjoy activities in the garden, giggling as they swing to and fro. Children are provided with plenty of opportunities for physical play through activities that help them to develop confidence and move their bodies in various ways. For example, the toddler confidently pulls herself up and eagerly walks around the play area with necessary support from the childminder.

The childminder promotes a calm environment where children are happy and confident. She makes very young children feel good about themselves by frequently providing positive support, praise and encouragement and treats all that happens as an opportunity for children to learn. For example, she uses a cassette recorder to play nursery rhymes, singing along, tapping out the rhyme and encouraging the baby to join in. The baby responds by giggling, shouting out, reaching up and smiling. Very good warm, caring relationships are evident and this is reflected as children are relaxed, settled and are confident to explore, make decisions and relate well to others. They explore paint when engaged in finger and hands prints, and experience a variety of textures as they play with the soft dough.

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?	3
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	3
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	3

Leadership and management

How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?	3
How effective is the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement?	3
How well does the setting work in partnership with parents and others?	3
How well are children safeguarded?	3

Quality and standards

How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?	3
How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?	3
How well are children helped to stay safe?	3
How well are children helped to be healthy?	4
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	3
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	3
How well are children helped develop skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being?	3

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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