

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY102626
Inspection date	30/07/2009
Inspector	Carolyn Gifford
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 was registered in 2001. She lives with her husband and two children aged nine years and 12-years-old at Woodseats in Sheffield. The whole of the ground floor is available for childminding, which includes a lounge, dining room, kitchen and hallway. The children's bedrooms and the bathroom on the first floor of the premises are also available for childminding.

The premises are accessible via a level driveway, path and one step to the front door. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play, where a decked area is available for children to use. The family have two pet hamsters.

Local schools, play areas and shops are within walking distance.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children under eight-years-old at any one time. There are currently 14 children on roll, six of whom are in the early years age group. Children attend for varying days and times.

The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register, compulsory part of the Childcare Register and voluntary part of the Childcare Register.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is good. The childminder recognises the uniqueness of each child she is minding and provides effectively for their individual needs. All children are welcomed into the setting and the childminder offers appropriate support to enable them to achieve well in all areas of learning. She shows a good capacity for continuous improvement as she acknowledges her own development needs to extend her knowledge and understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage framework (EYFS).

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- continue to develop knowledge and understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage framework.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder has effective systems in place to reflect on and evaluate her childcare service. She shows a clear commitment to the further development of her knowledge to support the continuous improvement of her service. Written policies and procedures that underpin important elements of the childcare are implemented very well and shared effectively with parents.

The childminder establishes very positive links with parents and other providers of the EYFS and these links are well supported by very good systems for information sharing. The childminder discusses individual children's starting points with parents and shares information with them and other providers about children's progress.

The childminder has a secure knowledge and understanding of her role and responsibilities with regard to safeguarding children and keeps up-to-date by completing relevant training. Guidance materials are readily available at the setting should she have any concerns about children in her care. The childminder maintains a clear focus on children's overall safety and completes risk assessments for the premises, indoors and out and for each type of outing. This effectively contribute to ensuring children's general welfare and safety.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children are cared for in a clean and safe environment where effective measures are taken to protect them from the spread of infection and to ensure their safety. The childminder offers a fully inclusive service and has a very good knowledge and understanding of the areas to consider when caring for children who have learning difficulties or disabilities to ensure that she meets the needs of all children attending. Resources are readily accessible and the childminder adapts activities to ensure that they are suitable for the ages and abilities of the children attending.

Children's welfare, learning and development are successfully promoted by the well organised and flexible approach of the childminder. She plans the childminding day to ensure that she meets each child's individual needs and complements children's learning and experiences at home and in other settings. She uses information from observations of children to inform her planning and to identify the next steps in individual children's learning and development.

A varied and wide range of resources and activities, with a good balance between adult-led and child-initiated activities, effectively contributes to children making good progress in all areas of learning. The childminder uses good questioning techniques to help children develop their critical thinking and problem solving skills. For example, as children build a wooden train track, the childminder encourages them to identify the straight and curved pieces and gives children appropriate support and guidance to enable them to work out how and where the pieces fit.

Children show a very strong sense of belonging as they confidently use all areas available for childminding and interact very well with each other and with the childminder. The childminder employs appropriate behaviour management strategies and her effective use of praise and encouragement contributes to children developing a positive self-esteem and learning right from wrong in a caring and supportive environment.

The good health of children is promoted very well as the childminder encourages children to make healthy food choices. She extends their knowledge and understanding via discussion and activities, which helps children to develop a

healthy lifestyle as they learn about the benefits of regular exercise and good food. Children enthusiastically participate in preparing fruit kebabs for lunch and the childminder extends their understanding by asking appropriate questions. She encourages children to count how many pieces of fruit they have and how many different types of fruit there are on their skewers. Children show a real sense of achievement and pride in the activities they engage in.

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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