

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY387286
Inspection date	31/07/2009
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 2009. She lives with her partner and two children aged 13 years and three-years-old at Meersbrook, Sheffield. The whole of the ground floor is available for childminding, which includes a dining kitchen and living room. There is a bathroom and two bedrooms on the first floor also available for childminding. The premises are accessible via a level path and one step to the front door and four steps to the rear door. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The family have a pet cat.

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

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

The childminder occasionally works with a childminder assistant.

The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and the compulsory part of the Childcare Register. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is good. The setting is very child focussed and the stimulating environment enables children to make good progress and to thrive safely. The childminder provides effectively for each child's individual needs and welcomes all children into the setting. She has effective systems in place to reflect on and evaluate her service and shows a clear commitment to further training to support the continuous improvement of the childcare. The childminder establishes positive links with parents and other providers of the Early Years Foundation Stage framework (EYFS) and acknowledges the need to further develop these links, particularly with other providers.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- further develop links with other providers of the Early Years Foundation Stage framework to ensure progression and continuity of care and learning for individual children

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder has a good knowledge of the EYFS and implements it well. She has the skills and expertise to offer children challenging and interesting play and

learning opportunities that capture their natural curiosity as learners. She offers an inclusive service and plans the childminding day carefully, tailoring arrangements and activities to ensure that she meets each child's welfare and learning needs.

Written policies and procedures that underpin important elements of the childcare are implemented and shared with parents very well. The childminder establishes very good relationships with parents and regularly obtains feedback, via daily communication both written and verbal and promotes a written questionnaire for parents to complete. This effectively contributes to parents being up-to-date and involved with the childcare. She also works hard to develop links with other providers of the EYFS and readily acknowledges the need to further develop these links to ensure progression and continuity of care and learning for individual children.

The childminder has a very good understanding of her role and responsibilities with regard to safeguarding children and knows the procedure to follow should she have concerns about children in her care. She is vigilant regarding children's overall safety and takes all reasonable steps, including written risk assessments for indoors, outdoors and outings, which effectively contributes to ensuring children's safety. She talks to children about keeping themselves safe, for example, by discussing road safety when on routine outings.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The childminder treats everything that happens as a learning opportunity for children. She includes all children and plans activities to stimulate individual children's interests and takes advantage of their spontaneous curiosity. During a 'bug hunting' activity, when children found ladybirds, the childminder helped them to extend their knowledge and understanding by counting the spots and talking to the children about how to care for the ladybirds.

The childminder ensures that all children enjoy the time spent with her and are suitably challenged. Babies use all their senses to explore different toys and resources, for example, stretching, pulling, pushing and squeezing different objects. The childminder encourages children's use of language and asks open questions to help children develop their problem solving and critical thinking skills.

Observation and assessment records are used effectively and the childminder makes clear links with the six areas of learning, which effectively contributes to children making good progress in their learning and development. Children have the opportunity to experience outdoor and physical play, which effectively contributes to them developing their creative and physical skills. Their health is further promoted as the childminder offers fresh fruit and vegetables at mealtimes, which contributes to children learning about foods that are good for them and developing a healthy lifestyle.

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 childcare service and demonstrates a good

understanding of the areas to consider when caring for children who have learning difficulties or disabilities, which ensures that she continues to meet the needs of all children attending.

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