

## Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique reference number</b>	311763
<b>Inspection date</b>	19/10/2009
<b>Inspector</b>	Janet Fairhurst
<b>Type of setting</b>	Childminder

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## 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.

Please see our website for more information about each childcare provider. We publish inspection reports, conditions of registration and details of complaints we receive where we or the provider take action to meet the requirements of registration.

## Description of the childminding

The childminder has been registered since 1996. She lives with her husband in the Ryton area of Gateshead. The premises is within easy access of amenities including schools, nurseries, toddler groups, parks and a library. The ground floor is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The family are caring for a dog on a temporary basis. The childminder cares for children on weekdays from 7.00am to 6.00pm.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children under eight years old at any one time. She is currently caring for seven children of whom four are in the early years age range. This provision is registered by Ofsted on the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register.

## The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is satisfactory.

Children's individuality is suitably recognised and nurtured by the childminder, who has a sound knowledge of their individual needs, interests and abilities. She has a general understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and plans daily opportunities that help children make satisfactory progress in their learning. The childminder works well with parents to ensure that children get the support they need. She has begun to liaise with other settings delivering the EYFS to promote continuity of care. Systems for self-evaluation are not in place to drive continuous improvement in all areas.

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

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

- make a record of risk assessments clearly stating when it was carried out, by whom, date of review and any action taken following a review or incident (also applies to both parts of the Childcare Register).  
(Suitable premises, environment & equipment)
- 03/11/2009

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

- continue to develop systems of assessment, making the links to the areas of learning and monitoring children's progress towards the early learning goals
- develop the process of self-evaluation to take into account the views of the children and parents in order to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the provision.

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

The childminder suitably understands her role in safeguarding children and is aware of the appropriate procedures to put into practice when necessary and this means children are kept safe from harm. Ongoing visual risk assessments support the childminder to put in place appropriate safety precautions, however the required written records are not maintained. The childminding provision is appropriately organised and all documentation is in place to promote the welfare of children, such as daily attendance records and parental consents. The childminder strives to provide a service that is inclusive for all children and their families. She has a positive attitude to liaising with other providers delivering the EYFS.

Children benefit from the childminder's understanding of the importance of working in partnership with their parents. Parents are encouraged to share relevant information necessary to promote children's care needs and general well-being, helping to ensure consistency. Information about children's learning and development is also shared, although this does not relate specifically to early learning goals. Parents develop warm and trusting relationships with the childminder. They comment that the childminder is caring and nurturing, flexible and always willing to help. Most of the children have been cared for by the childminder for several years, which is a good indicator of parent's overwhelming satisfaction with the service provided. The childminder works closely with parents to make sure that she has a good knowledge of each child's needs.

The childminder has addressed the recommendation made at the previous inspection. For example, she has improved the way accidents are recorded, which ensures that the details are more secure. The childminder acknowledges that there is not a strong enough focus on reflecting on her practice and seeking the views of others. This means that priorities for improvement are not always accurately targeted. Although the childminder has not attended any recent training, she has ensured that she maintains a current first aid certificate, which ensures that children receive appropriate treatment in the event of an accident.

## **The quality and standards of the early years provision and outcomes for children**

Children are content and enjoy their time in the childminder's care. A range of suitable play opportunities and experiences helps them to learn and ensure that they are having fun. The childminder is developing her understanding of the EYFS and is generally aware of children's individual developmental needs. The childminder has chosen to monitor children's progress through the use of photographs which she shares with parents. The childminder satisfactorily outlines the progress individual children are making and how she uses information gained from informal observations to plan activities which she feels children will enjoy, be interested in and appropriately challenged by. However, the links to the early learning goals and areas of learning have not yet been made.

The childminder provides a relaxed environment, where children are clearly comfortable in her care. They approach her readily for attention and respond very well to her warm, caring manner. Their self-esteem is promoted as a result of the praise and positive reinforcement they receive. Children are developing some independence skills as they help themselves to toys and learn to put their socks and shoes on. Children begin to gain some awareness of the wider community and the differences and similarities between people through discussion and their visits to the local care home to visit the elderly. Children enjoy opportunities to develop early writing skills, for example, children readily make marks to represent their ideas. The childminder develops children's learning by introducing mathematical concepts, such as counting and colour recognition in their play and in everyday situations. They learn problem solving skills as they work out how to complete an inset puzzle, twisting and turning pieces until they fit.

Children's health is promoted because they are cared for in a clean and hygienic setting. They also experience regular opportunities to get out in the fresh air. For example, walking to the local schools and the nursery forms part of the daily routine. Children also enjoy visiting the park, which gives them opportunities to interact with others and to gain different experiences out of the home. A sufficient range of outdoor equipment is available for children to use, which effectively promotes their physical development. Ongoing explanations from the childminder about safety issues helps children begin to understand how to keep themselves safe. For example, they understand the reason why they must not run around the house and learn about road safety when they are out and about. Children's dietary needs are fully met as parents provide their children with the main meal of the day. This is supplemented with healthy snack, such as fresh fruit provided by the childminder and their regular access to drinks throughout the day.

## 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*

### The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

<b>How well does the setting meet the needs of the children in the Early Years Foundation Stage?</b>	3
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement	3

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

<b>How effectively is the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?</b>	3
The effectiveness of leadership and management in embedding ambition and driving improvement	3
The effectiveness with which the setting deploys resources	3
The effectiveness with which the setting promotes equality and diversity	3
The effectiveness of safeguarding	3
The effectiveness of the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement	3
The effectiveness of partnerships	3
The effectiveness of the setting's engagement with parents and carers	2

### The quality of the provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage

The quality of the provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage	3
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### Outcomes for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage

<b>Outcomes for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage</b>	3
The extent to which children achieve and enjoy their learning	3
The extent to which children feel safe	3
The extent to which children adopt healthy lifestyles	3
The extent to which children make a positive contribution	3
The extent to which children develop skills for the future	3

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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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