

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY240304
Inspection date	02/07/2010
Inspector	Lynn Rodgers
Type of setting	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 2002. She lives with her husband in Wombwell, a large residential area of Barnsley, close to shops, parks, schools and public transport links. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's house, plus first floor toilet facilities and small bedroom, are used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden to the front and the rear of the property, available for outside play. Care is offered Monday to Friday all year round. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children under eight years old, at any one time and is currently minding eight children, of which three are in the early years age group. She also offers care to children aged over five years old to 10 years old. The childminder walks or drives to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local parent and toddler group and regularly meets with fellow childminders. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and is working towards a level 3 qualification.

The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register, 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.

The provider demonstrates a satisfactory understanding of her strengths and areas for development, which effectively contributes to the ongoing improvement of the service. The childminder has identified her areas of strength and where improvements can be made. However, her register requires updating, in line with the requirements and the fire blanket is not easily available. The childminder meets children's individual needs and gathers all relevant information from the parents to help her monitor their progress. However, the children's next steps in their development are not specific enough.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- ensure the fire blanket is suitably sited and available at all times
- keep the register up-to-date and record the specific times of children's attendances
- ensure the record of children's next steps is specific to their individual stages of development

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

The steps taken to safeguard children are satisfactory. The childminder identifies dangers, takes steps to eliminate them and helps children to keep safe. There is a

suitable system for recording any existing injuries, accidents or concerns regarding the children and parents are informed of the childminder's duty to report any such concerns. The system for carrying out risk assessments is clear and identifies any hazards and the action taken. However, the fire blanket is not suitably sighted to ensure it is available for emergencies. The childminder self-evaluates her provision, through talking to parents and the children, asking for their views and suggestions, accessing training courses when she can and keeping up with any new legislation. The childminder shows ambition by making sure all children are happy, relaxed and working towards their achievements. Resources are effectively used, they are in good condition and suitable for the ages of the minded children. The children are able to access activities that are set out for their enjoyment, taking into account their interests. Most documentation is in place and available, however there are some exceptions that need to be addressed.

The effectiveness with which the setting promotes equality and diversity is satisfactory. The childminder treats all children as individuals, with equal care and concern, and does not offer any gender based activities. She promotes awareness of other cultures and religions. Children have free choice and access to all toys. The children are welcomed warmly and their individual needs are established and met. The childminder talks to parents to find out what their children like and dislike, and she uses this information to provide age-appropriate play situations. Parents are fully informed about their children's day and she is flexible with regard to the hours of care that meets their individual lifestyles. Parents receive verbal and written information on a daily basis. All relevant information is gathered and documented to ensure she meets children's individual needs, and there is relevant information available regarding the procedures for making a complaint. The parents receive written contracts and these are regularly updated. The childminder displays her certificate of registration when childminding. She has completed a relevant first aid course for babies and young children and has the confidence to administer emergency first aid treatment. The childminder fully engages with the children and their parents and is already building positive relationships with the families she provides care for. She seeks and takes into account the views of parents and important issues. The children are involved in making decisions to some extent and there is a regular exchange of information. The premises are very clean and child friendly, with airy and light rooms, offering plenty of free space, which is very well organised.

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

Overall, the children are making sufficient progress in their learning and are beginning to settle and they are willing to take part in all activities. They are able to make some choices about what they do and show they feel safe when they are with the childminder. They are beginning to comply and understand health, safety and care routines. The children are beginning to adopt and understand acceptable levels of behaviour and know how to behave, and care for and use the resources appropriately. Babies and young children are starting to develop a sense of security and confidence, due to the good interaction from the childminder. Children are happy and settled, they show growing confidence and independence and are

beginning to gain an understanding of diversity through everyday activities and experiences. Children are beginning to show some understanding about healthy lifestyles, as they follow appropriate personal hygiene routines, with support from the childminder. They enjoy healthy and nutritious foods, access fresh air and exercise regularly. Their religious and dietary requirements are met.

Children are beginning to make some progress in communication and numeracy. They are developing social skills and are able to negotiate with their peers and show an interest in what is around them. The childminder has a clear knowledge and understanding of learning and development, as well as a wide range of resources to provide a stimulating range of activities and experiences to meet children's needs. The level of challenge is good, to interest and engage the children. The childminder plans activities that are age-appropriate and suitable for the children's level of knowledge and understanding, clearly showing how the children are working towards the six areas of learning. She has a record of the children's starting points and is beginning to assess children's progression and monitor their overall development. The childminder carries out observations on the children and keeps a written record of this information. However, the children's next steps are not specific to their stage of development. The environment is safe and secure. The childminder has built positive relationships and works well with parents and other carers. Outdoor play is always available and there are alternatives, such as the park, walks, as well as visiting the library and shops.

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

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

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

How effectively is the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?	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	3

The quality of the provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage

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Outcomes for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage

Outcomes for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage	3
The extent to which children achieve and enjoy their learning	2
The extent to which children feel safe	2
The extent to which children adopt healthy lifestyles	2
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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