

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	300079
Inspection date	22/04/2010
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 was registered in 1996. She lives with her husband and one adult child, in a mid-terrace house in a suburb of Sheffield. The ground floor rooms are used for childminding, plus the front bedroom and there is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The childminder is registered for a maximum of four children under eight years old, at any one time. The childminder is currently minding one child, in the early years age group, but the child was not present at this inspection. Care is offered Monday to Friday, all year round.

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 fellow childminders and is building relationships with other providers of early years care and education.

The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and 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 some understanding of her strengths and areas for development which effectively contributes to the ongoing improvement of the service. There are still some improvements to be made but overall the childminder has a very positive attitude towards training and improving her service. During discussion the childminder stated that children are included and valued, and are suitably monitored and assessed to enable the childminder to see their natural progression. The childminder informally plans activities for the children but these do not clearly show their progression towards the six areas of learning. The childminder self-evaluates her provision but has yet to take this a step further by documenting what she does.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- plan a range of activities that show children are working towards the early learning goals
- consider further developing the system for self-evaluation and reflecting on good working practice.

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

Safeguarding procedures are satisfactory with evidence of a written statement. She verbally demonstrated suitable measures to ensure children are safe and secure.

She has some knowledge of the procedures to follow and would contact Ofsted if she has any concerns. There is a well written risk assessment and evidence to support this is carried out on a regular basis. All safety requirements are in place. The quality of self-evaluation is satisfactory as the childminder is now beginning to reflect on her practice and gathers and shares relevant information. All the required documentation is in place, well written and implemented to ensure she effectively manages the provision. She has built positive relationships with parents and is beginning to forge links with others supporting children's care and education. Resources are plentiful and beginning to be used effectively to support children's learning and development. The planning and use of resources is developing in a satisfactory manner to help children to reach their full potential.

The childminder has a positive attitude towards equality and diversity and ensures all children are welcomed into the setting and respects parent's wishes. The childminder has shown a willingness and a very positive capacity to improve by addressing most of the improvements raised at the last inspection. Through discussion it was evident that resources are effectively used through daily rotation and taking children's interests into account. Children are able to make some choices about what they play with. Toys and equipment are in good condition and fit for purpose. Positive relationships with parents are established and they share all relevant information verbally.

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

Through discussion there is evidence to suggest that children are happy and settled, willing to take part in activities and are able to make some choices regarding what they do. They are beginning to display a sense of belonging and confidence. The childminder records evidence to support that the children are making sufficient progress in all areas of learning in relation to their starting points and capabilities. Through discussion it was established that babies and young children are starting to develop a sense of security and confidence within the setting due to the childminder's interaction with them. The children have satisfactory opportunities to engage in physical exercise and are beginning to be aware of healthy eating. Through discussion it was established that overall babies' and young children's health, physical and dietary needs are adequately met. Children are beginning to gain some understanding of diversity through the activities and experiences they participate in. The childminder verbally gave examples of appropriate methods for the safe management of children's behaviour and most children behave satisfactorily. Younger children are beginning to learn early skills to extend their knowledge and understanding in mathematics and language development.

The childminder's knowledge of the learning and development and welfare requirements is satisfactory and the specific requirements, which have a significant impact on children, are now fully met. The systems are adequate and the childminder has ensured all documentation, records, policies and procedures are in place. The childminder is beginning to have a clearer understanding of the six areas of learning and her observations are now in line with the welfare

requirements. She monitors the children's progress and is beginning to plan appropriate activities to stimulate and interest the children. The partnerships with external agencies are more positive and sufficiently developed to enable the childminder to access further training and knowledge.

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	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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