

Inspection report for early years provision

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Inspection date	29/11/2010
Inspector	Cathryn Parry
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 1992. She lives with her two adult sons and younger son aged 17-years-old in the residential area of Hebburn in South Tyneside. The childminder's home is easily accessed by all. The whole of the ground floor and the back bedroom and bathroom on the first floor of the childminder's home are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The childminder cares for children on weekdays from 7.15am to 6.30pm for 49 weeks of the year.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children under eight years at any one time, of whom no more than three may be in the early years age range. She is currently minding one child in this age group. She also offers care to children aged over five years and is currently minding two children in this age group. The childminder is registered by Ofsted on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. She can support children with English as an additional language and those with special educational needs and/or disabilities. The childminder has established links with the local school and would make partnership arrangements with other early years settings as needed. She collects children from the local school and attends a toddler group on a regular basis.

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is satisfactory.

The childminder offers a warm and friendly welcome to all children and their families. She demonstrates a positive attitude to providing an inclusive environment. There is an adequate range of resources to enable children to make progress in their learning and development. Some areas of learning are covered better than others and systems for monitoring children's progress are being developed. The childminder links with an early years professional from the local authority to ensure satisfactory improvement is maintained.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- improve systems for planning activities and observing children, to clearly show progress towards the early learning goals
- improve resources and activities to nurture children's respect for their own cultures and beliefs and those of other people.

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder has a suitable understanding of her role and responsibility concerning safeguarding. As a result, children's safety and well-being are appropriately ensured. Regular risk assessments both indoors and outdoors take place and are recorded. These satisfactorily reduce the chance of accidental injury. The childminder has attended a range of training to enhance her childcare knowledge and understanding. This has enabled her to meet the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. The adequate selection of resources is stored at the children's height to promote free choice and independence. These are complemented with activities at the toddler group.

Friendly relationships have been developed with parents. The childminder speaks to them on a daily basis to ensure they are informed of the activities their children have enjoyed. This enables parents to continue their children's learning at home through similar experiences. The childminder demonstrates a suitable appreciation of the benefits of linking with other professionals to ensure children's individual needs are met. There are currently no children attending who receive care and education in more than one setting. However, the childminder shows an appropriate understanding of the benefits of liaising with other practitioners to nurture continuity of care.

The childminder satisfactorily evaluates the learning and development opportunities she provides. She gains feedback from parents to broaden her view of the service she offers. This enables her to tailor the experiences provided to meet children's individual requirements. The recommendation raised at the previous inspection has been positively addressed. This has a positive impact on safeguarding children.

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

The childminder has an adequate understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage and implements it reasonably well. Children enjoy their time with the childminder and are happy to participate in the selection of activities provided. They are learning to share and take turns through the childminder's appropriate support. The childminder's appropriate approach to equality and diversity has a positive impact on children's attitude to the wider community. However, there are few resources to complement this. Consequently, this has a negative impact on raising their awareness and understanding of difference. Children have some opportunities to access information and communication technology resources to promote their skills for the future adequately. Their communication skills are fostered appropriately resulting in regular interactions between themselves and the childminder. A reasonable selection of creative activities including painting and drawing, promote children's self-expression whilst having fun. The provision of matching games and jigsaws encourages children's problem solving skills. The childminder satisfactorily plans activities taking into account children's interests and

capabilities. She has started to develop individual learning journeys, containing observations and photographs linked to the areas of learning. However, they do not cover all of the areas of learning, which makes it difficult to monitor progress towards each of the early learning goals.

Children enjoy physical play including negotiating large climbing equipment at the park, going swimming and visiting a soft play centre. This contributes positively to them developing their coordination. An appropriate menu encourages children to have a suitable awareness of healthy meal options. Meals provided include spaghetti bolognese, egg on toast and fruit. Children are beginning to understand simple health and hygiene practices. They wash their hands before lunch, and after using the toilet. They do not generally attend if they are sick, which enables the childminder to protect others from illness. Children are kept safe on outings as they learn road safety procedures and understand simple rules, such as holding hands when crossing the road. They experience appropriate levels of supervision and sufficient safety equipment is in place to ensure hazards are reduced. The childminder has all the required procedures and documents in place to ensure children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted.

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

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the Early Years Foundation Stage	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

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

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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