

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	300039
Inspection date	15/12/2010
Inspector	Hilary McKenning
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 1986. She lives by herself in Sheffield. There are shops, parks, schools and public transport links in the local area. Children access the whole of the ground floor and bathroom facilities on the first floor. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered on the Early Years register as well as the voluntary and compulsory parts of the Child care register and may care for a maximum of six children at any one time. She also offers care to children aged over five years. There are three children attending, one of whom is in the early years age group. The childminder takes and collects children from school and nursery. She attends toddler groups and childminder support groups on a regular basis. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is good.

Overall the quality of the provision is good. Children develop a high degree of self-confidence and within a safe environment as suitable risks assessments are completed. They access a wide range of activities and learning opportunities successfully promote children's learning. As a result, children are making good progress. Links with parents and other providers of the Early Years Foundation stage are established. The childminder takes time to develop a good understanding of children's individual needs to promote inclusive practice. Most documentation is in place and the childminder uses a self-evaluation process to monitor her service in order to identify areas for future development.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- develop further assessments and use to inform planning to meet individual child needs.

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

Arrangements for safeguarding children are very clear. There is a detailed system in place to monitor safety. The childminder has a clear policy in place for identifying any child at risk of harm and has good up-to-date knowledge of the possible signs of abuse and neglect. All the required documentation is in place including Criminal Records Bureau disclosures, ensuring all persons in contact with children are suitable to do so. All reasonable steps are taken to help to ensure that children are kept safe as risk assessments are completed for both within the

premises and when enjoying outings. Children are actively involved in discussions around safety and describe how they keep listening for cars when crossing the road. Records show that children take part in regular fire drills. This practice effectively helps to keep children safe and promotes a good understanding of staying safe.

The childminder shares a positive relationship with parents and works closely with them, sharing information to ensure children's welfare needs are met appropriately. There is a comprehensive range of policies and procedures which are shared with parents and support the childminding service. Regular verbal feedback about children's activities is exchanged. Observation and assessments records regarding children's achievements have been maintained, although this has recently lapsed. Positive links have been established with other settings offering the Early Years Foundation Stage and the childminder continues to follow identified themes and topics to support children's learning and development.

The childminder has a good knowledge and understanding of how children learn and uses the Early Years Foundation Stage guidance to promote children's welfare. The childminder promotes equality and diversity helping children to understand about the community they live in and the wider world. Children visit local groups, shops and places of interest. They access a range of resources that reflect positive images and diversity on a daily basis helping to raise children's awareness of the wider world. The childminder uses the Ofsted style evaluation form to give her direction and to identify areas for improvement.

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

Children are very happy and content within the warm and welcoming environment. They share a very warm and caring relationship with the childminder and are making good progress. There are suitable systems in place to deal with any accidents involving children. The childminder is aware of the requirements regarding complaints and information is available for parents on the noticeboard. There are clear processes in place to promote the health and safety of the children in her care. For example, a high priority is given to ensuring children understand about good personal hygiene. They clearly identify their own colour coded towel and confidently tell how they use their toothbrush to keep their teeth clean. They are introduced to healthy eating and select their favourite fruit of apple and red grapes at snack time. Children are encouraged to be active and understand the benefits of physical activity as they access outdoors daily and have fun visiting local play areas and groups.

The childminder knows each child very well and ensures all children are able to have fun, join in and be challenged on a daily basis. Children follow their interests with perseverance and have confidence in what they do. They are very familiar with their surroundings and easily access a wide variety of resources, asking for items they cannot see or easily reach. Children use their imagination well as they dress up in the role play area and then begin to examine several dolls, checking they are not ill. Children are confident in their play and have developed a strong

relationship with the childminder, seeking her out and involving her and other adults. For example, children ask about the childminder's favourite foods and count out a number of different play foods for adults to make their selection. Children recall when they made muffins using fruit they had grown and collected. Children enjoy looking through a variety of books and snuggle into the childminder as they read together the selected story, joining in and pointing at the pictures. Children are well behaved and eagerly become involved in a range of activities such as jigsaws, small world play and creating pictures with felt pieces. Children feel valued and receive lots of praise and encouragement from the childminder as they turn around the different shapes to place them in the corresponding openings of the shape sorter. Children can be heard singing and humming as they play and spontaneously sing a selection of Christmas songs they have been singing at nursery.

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?	2
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement	2

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the Early Years Foundation Stage	2
The effectiveness of leadership and management in embedding ambition and driving improvement	2
The effectiveness with which the setting deploys resources	2
The effectiveness with which the setting promotes equality and diversity	2
The effectiveness of safeguarding	2
The effectiveness of the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement	2
The effectiveness of partnerships	2
The effectiveness of the setting's engagement with parents and carers	2

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	2
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	2
The extent to which children develop skills for the future	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
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The provider confirms that the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register are:	Met
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