

Inspection report for early years provision

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Inspection date	06/07/2011
Inspector	Shirley Peart
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. The provision is registered on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. She lives in North Shields, North Tyneside with her husband. The home is situated in a residential area close to local shops and schools. The ground floor of the home and a bathroom and bedroom on the first floor are used for childminding. There is an enclosed rear garden and patio area for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to take a maximum of six children. There are currently four children attending who are within the Early Years Foundation Stage age group. The childminder also offers care to four children aged over eight years and regularly looks after her grandchild. There are two pet dogs and a guinea pig on the premises.

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is good.

Children are very well cared for by a competent, experienced childminder who meets their all-round individual needs successfully as she recognises and values each child's uniqueness extremely well. She uses the learning and development requirements quite well in practice so that children make good progress, however, assessment of their individual interests does not yet inform her planning. Children's safety is given high priority, however, some required records were not available for inspection. She works very well with parents and other providers to ensure that children's development is fully supported. She has some plans for improvement and uses self-evaluation effectively to help her establish what she would like to develop to benefit the children's care.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- ensure that records, such as accident and medication, are easily accessible and available for inspection (Documentation). 20/07/2011

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

- use observations in formative assessment to guide and inform the planning so that children's specific interests are built upon to help them learn and develop further.

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

Children are safeguarded well as the childminder has a clear understanding of what to do should she have concerns about a child's welfare. She has all relevant contact numbers at hand to seek advice or make a referral and her child protection policy is shared with parents. A written risk assessment for the home is in place and this will be updated to include use of the garden. Child safety equipment is used well, such as door alarms and preventative finger door jams, so that children remain safe and secure inside the home. There was no evidence to show how outings are risk assessed, however, the childminder explains how she keeps children safe on outings, such as wearing high visibility jackets, being strapped in buggies and by good supervision. The childminder has a wealth of information held in files and folders regarding her practice, the outcomes for children, information for parents and written policies and procedures. However, on the day of the inspection, the medication, accident, fire logbook and information about risks on outings were not readily available.

She is a dedicated, longstanding childminder who genuinely loves her work with children. She attends training when she can to update her knowledge and has close links with other childminders in the area to network and share good practice. She uses self-evaluation effectively to establish what she does well and has identified some priorities for improvement to benefit the children's care, learning and development. Although she met the recommendations from the last inspection by updating her complaint information and first aid box, the Ofsted contact details have changed again since then, so their current phone number and address was not up-to-date in her complaints information for parents.

The childminder has a wealth of good quality toys and resources that are stored in an upstairs spare room. These are clearly labelled with pictures and words so that children easily see and choose what they would like to play with that day. She also has a very good range of resources that reflect different cultures and abilities, such as jigsaws, dolls and wheelchairs. She is proactive in sharing these with other childminders, for example, during disability week, and uses them with the children along with her other toys, which helps children to understand that our society is made up of a range of different people.

Many older children have attended for a number of years, which indicates that parents are satisfied with the provision and comments in letters include 'I am extremely happy with the care'. Parents receive a comprehensive welcome pack and relevant information is displayed in the entrance lobby for them. They sign to give consent for various events and individual daily contact books and learning journeys are available, which parents also comment in. She works effectively with other providers who deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage when children attend two settings and takes a keen interest in what they do, so that she can follow through activities very well.

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

The childminder has a good knowledge of the Early Years Foundation Stage. She knows what the children enjoy doing and, through her knowledge of the children and her observations she is able to monitor their learning and progress well. She records observations, alongside lovely photographs in their individual learning journeys. Although she links her observations broadly to the areas of learning, she does not use information in the Practice Guidance sufficiently to help her use these observations to guide and inform her planning so that she can plan specific activities based on children's interests. Children follow a good routine while they are with her. They attend the Sure Start centre, visit the local farm, and attend toddler groups and museums, which ensures that children's overall learning and development is well promoted.

Children enjoy the social occasion of snack and lunch time as they sit together on the child-size table and chairs. They eat healthy snacks, have regular drinks and get daily fresh air and routinely follow good practices for hand-washing. They proudly show off their clean hands and talk about how they smell nice. This promotes their good health and well-being successfully. Although the childminder fully explains how she deals with any accidents and administration of medication and she holds a current first aid certificate, the medication and accident records were not available for checking to establish if they meet requirements.

Children are happy and very settled in the childminder's care. They feel safe and secure as they spontaneously throw their arms around her neck and give her kisses. Therefore, they have an extremely strong sense of belonging. They have excellent relationships with her and she highly values their own culture and background. For example, she uses both English and the children's first language during play, such as counting, which all helps children to make a positive contribution. Children persevere and concentrate very well on their play, such as when they try to strap the doll into the toy wheelchair. They complete jigsaws successfully with the childminder's help. They play with her happily as she encourages them to match discs onto corresponding colours and images, which promotes their mathematical skills well. The childminder is very enthusiastic, which inspires the children and raises their self-esteem very well. For example, when they complete a task, they join in to give themselves a clap, or they join in happily with action songs and rhymes as she spontaneously sings. Thus, children demonstrate that they are very self-assured and enjoy their time with her.

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

The quality of the provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage	2
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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	3
The extent to which children make a positive contribution	1
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:

Not Met (with actions)

The provider confirms that the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register are:

Not Met (with actions)

The registered provider does not meet the requirements of the compulsory and or voluntary part/s of the Childcare Register.

To comply with the requirements of the compulsory part of the Childcare Register, the registered person must take the following action/s by the specified date:

- take action as specified in the early years section of the report (Records to be kept). 20/07/2011

To comply with the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register, the registered person must take the following action/s by the specified date:

- take action as specified in the early years section of the report (Records to be kept). 20/07/2011