

Inspection date	10/12/2012
Previous inspection date	07/10/2009

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	3
	Previous inspection:	3
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		3
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		2
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		3

The quality and standards of the early years provision

This provision is satisfactory

- Children feel safe and secure with the childminder who provides a caring and loving environment which promotes children's well-being.
- Children are supported to acquire the skills and capacity to develop and learn effectively, and be ready for the next steps in their learning.
- The home is a safe, clean and stimulating learning environment that meets children's individual needs.
- The childminder is a good role model for children joining in with their play and applying consistent ways to help children understand acceptable behaviour.

It is not yet good because

- Parents are not sufficiently encouraged to share information about their children's learning and development at home in order that the childminder can ensure that children's learning is extended effectively while they are in her care.
- Self-evaluation is not sufficiently in place to show how targets are prioritised and planned for to ensure continuous improvement.

Information about this inspection

Inspections of registered early years provision are scheduled:

- at least once in every inspection cycle. The current cycle ends on 31 July 2016
- more frequently where Ofsted identifies a need to do so, for example where provision was previously judged as inadequate
- brought forward in the inspection cycle where Ofsted has received information that suggests the provision may not be meeting the legal requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage; or where assessment of the provision identifies a need for early inspection
- prioritised for inspection where we have received information that the provision is not meeting the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage and which suggests children may not be safe
- at the completion of an investigation into failure to comply with the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage.

The provision is also registered on the voluntary and compulsory parts of the Childcare Register. This report includes a judgment about compliance with the requirements of that register.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities and how the premises were used for the care of the children.
- The inspector spoke with the childminder at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector looked at children's development records and a selection of records, policies and procedures.

Inspector

Lynne Pope

Full Report

Information about the setting

The childminder was registered in 2003 on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. She lives with her two children aged 15 and 10 years in a house in Peterlee, County Durham. The whole of the ground floor, the bathroom on the first floor and the rear garden are used for childminding.

The childminder attends a toddler group and the local childminding network meetings. She visits shops and the local park on a regular basis. She collects children from the local schools and pre-schools.

There are currently three children on roll, all of whom are in the early years age group and attend for a variety of sessions. She operates all year round from 7am to 7.30pm, Monday to Friday, except bank holidays and family holidays.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

To meet the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage the provider must:

- help parents to consistently share what they know about their children in relation to their ongoing learning and development and use this information to inform the planning of activities
- devise and implement a thorough self-evaluation process, which includes the views of parents and children, to identify strengths and areas for development.

Inspection judgements

How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend

The childminder has assessed children's development under the prime areas of learning and development to show how they are progressing and based her planning on this. Activities are carefully planned taking into account the areas of learning that they will cover and the appropriate resources that are used to meet their needs. She evaluates activities and notes the possible next steps in children's development which ensures their individual needs are met. However, procedures to enable parents to share information about their child's development at home are not sufficiently promoted so that the childminder can more effectively plan around children's interests.

Children have the opportunity to participate in a variety of activities and experiences. Activities are child-led for very young children as they choose from the readily available resources what they would like to do. Young children learn that their own voice has an effect on the childminder as they enjoy babbling and making sounds. They particularly enjoy it when the childminder sings familiar rhymes. They laugh as she uses actions for 'round and round the garden' and when she has finished they try to imitate her actions. Everyday opportunities help children develop an understanding of number such as listening to and counting how many bangs they hear when the fireworks go off. Young children enjoy daily routines such as sleep time where the childminder wraps children in a blanket and cuddles them which helps them feel secure in her care.

The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children

The childminder sensitively helps new children to settle through offering settling in visits that build up over a period of time. This helps them to have a smooth transition from home to her care. Children have formed a close attachment to the childminder and use her as a secure base from which to explore the resources independently in the home. The childminder has a calm and consistent manner when caring for children. She uses facial expressions, tone of voice and hand expressions to help children understand the difference between right and wrong. When behaviour is unwanted the childminder uses time out for children aged over three years and talks to them about the reasons why to help them understand.

Good use is made of space in the warm and welcoming environment. Resources are stored in low-level boxes in the conservatory which enables children to make their own choices and develop their independence. The childminder provides healthy meals for children and talks to them about healthy snacks and foods to develop their awareness of healthy eating. The childminder shows an appreciation for the way that children move. She has ensured that they have space in the home for their activities. They particularly enjoy crawling round to connect with resources and pull themselves up on furniture preparing for their first steps. Outings help children to learn about their local community. They have joined in with organised events at the local Sure Start centre such as 'Pirates in the Park'. This helps them to learn to mix with other children. Children also join in with a local charity, taking part in activities which helps to challenge attitudes and prejudices. The childminder develops children's awareness of cultural festivals during the year. For example, they take part in activities linked to Diwali.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision

Children are appropriately safeguarded as the childminder has a satisfactory understanding of the procedures to follow should she have a concern about their welfare. She can recognise that children might be at risk of harm and knows how to liaise with appropriate agencies should she have a child protection concern. The safety of children is given priority when they are in her care. They learn how to keep themselves safe as they are given reminders about road safety when they are on outings. Written risk assessments are completed for the home, outdoors and any outings children take part in. These successfully identify dangers and the appropriate steps to take to eliminate risk and keep children safe and secure. The required records, policies and procedures are in place which underpin the care and welfare of children.

The recommendations raised at the last inspection have been partly implemented. For example, medication record sheets are readily available should they be needed for parents to provide written consent. The childminder has continued to develop her knowledge of the Early Years Foundation Stage and as a result has updated her monitoring and assessment of children to support their learning and development. However, she has not continued to develop systems of evaluating her service to identify her strengths and weaknesses to effectively support continuous improvement.

The childminder understands the importance of working in partnership with others involved in children's care and learning. She states that she would liaise with other provisions such as nursery about what a child has done there. The childminder has positive relationship with parents and carers. She regularly shares information about children's routines and the activities they complete. She shares their child's learning journal of activities which encourages parents to continue their child's learning at home.

The Childcare Register

The requirements for the compulsory part of the Childcare Register are **Met**

The requirements for the voluntary part of the Childcare Register are **Met**

What inspection judgements mean

Registered early years provision

Grade	Judgement	Description
Grade 1	Outstanding	Outstanding provision is highly effective in meeting the needs of all children exceptionally well. This ensures that children are very well prepared for the next stage of their learning.
Grade 2	Good	Good provision is effective in delivering provision that meets the needs of all children well. This ensures children are ready for the next stage of their learning.
Grade 3	Satisfactory	Satisfactory provision is performing less well than expectations in one or more of the key areas. It requires improvement in order to be good.
Grade 4	Inadequate	Provision that is inadequate requires significant improvement and/or enforcement. The provision is failing to give children an acceptable standard of early years education and/or is not meeting the safeguarding and welfare requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. It will be inspected again within 12 months of the date of this inspection.
Met		The provision has no children on roll. The inspection judgement is that the provider continues to meet the requirements for registration.
Not Met		The provision has no children on roll. The inspection judgement is that the provider does not meet the requirements for registration.

Inspection

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under Sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of provision that is registered on the Early Years Register. The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and care, known as the Early Years Foundation Stage.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY267910
Local authority	Durham
Inspection number	893068
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	5
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	07/10/2009
Telephone number	

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Type of provision

For the purposes of this inspection the following definitions apply:

Full-time provision is that which operates for more than three hours. These are usually known as nurseries, nursery schools and pre-schools and must deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage. They are registered on the Early Years Register and pay the higher fee for registration.

Sessional provision operates for more than two hours but does not exceed three hours in any one day. These are usually known as pre-schools, kindergartens or nursery schools and must deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage. They are registered on the Early Years Register and pay the lower fee for registration.

Childminders care for one or more children where individual children attend for a period of more than two hours in any one day. They operate from domestic premises that are usually their own home. They are registered on the Early Years Register and must deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage.

Out of school provision may be sessional or full-time provision and is delivered before or after school and/or in the summer holidays. They are registered on the Early Years Register and must deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage. Where children receive their Early Years Foundation Stage in school these providers do not have to deliver the learning and development requirements in full but should complement the experiences children receive in school.

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