

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY297427
Inspection date	27/10/2008
Inspector	Permjit Tanda

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 report includes information on any complaints about the childcare provision which Ofsted has received since the last inspection or registration whichever is the later, which require Ofsted or the provider to take action in Annex C.

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.

Description of the childminding

The childminder has been registered since November 2004. She lives with her husband and one child aged 11 years. The family live in Wednesbury, West Midlands. The childminder is within walking distance of the local schools, shops, and a park. The whole of the ground floor and the first floor bathroom is used for childminding purposes. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children under eight years at any one time. She is currently caring for two children in the early years age group and two children after school only. The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and also makes provision for children older than the early years age group being registered on the voluntary and compulsory part of the childcare register. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The childminder provides inadequate outcomes for children in some aspects of the Early Years Foundation Stage. Planning is in its infancy and is loosely based on children's starting points, observations and assessments which means learning experiences are based on children's interests and needs. The childminder fosters positive relationships with every child and their family but insufficient information about the children's learning and development is shared with parents. Since the last inspection the standard of children's care in relation to their safety and welfare has fallen below the requirements detailed in the Early Years Foundation Stage. The childminder has not developed sufficiently robust systems to monitor and evaluate the quality of the welfare, learning and development of children.

Overall, the early years provision requires significant improvement. The registered person is given a Notice to Improve that sets out actions to be carried out.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

To comply with the requirements of the EYFS the registered person must take the following action by the specified date:

- obtain a current paediatric first aid certificate and ensure this is kept up to date (Suitable people) (also applies to both parts of the Childcare Register) 24/01/2009
- provide a first aid box with appropriate content to meet the needs of children (Safeguarding) 19/12/2008
- take necessary steps to safeguard and promote the welfare of children; this relates to ensuring an up-to-date understanding of safeguarding children issues and being able to implement the safeguarding children policy and procedure appropriately (Safeguarding) 19/12/2008

- conduct a risk assessment to ensure that hazards to children both indoors and outdoors are kept to a minimum (Suitable premises) (also applies to the both parts of the Childcare Register) 19/12/2008
- keep children safe whilst on outings through conducting a full risk assessment for each type of outing (Safeguarding) 28/10/2008
- obtain information about all children's emergency contact numbers, doctors details, who has parental responsibility and their special dietary and health requirements (Safeguarding) 28/10/2008
- keep a daily record of the names of the children looked after on the premises and their hours of attendance. (Documentation) (also applies to both parts of the Childcare Register). 28/10/2008

To improve the early years provision the registered person should:

- plan and provide experiences which are appropriate to each child's stage of development as they progress towards the early learning goals through increasing the range of play experiences and ensuring toys and play materials are easily accessible to the children
- develop systems to monitor and evaluate the quality of the welfare and learning and development of children to secure and maintain continuous improvement
- ensure information is shared with parents and carers about children's next steps in learning and offer support for extending learning in the home.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder does not consistently maintain records, policies and procedures for some aspects of the provision. Therefore, important information on the children's health needs, dietary requirements, doctors details and alternative emergency contact numbers are not available for some children. The children's attendance is recorded weekly and therefore not an accurate record of the children's attendance daily. The childminder does not hold a current paediatric first aid certificate and the first aid box does not contain appropriate content to meet the needs of children. This compromises children's safety and welfare. The childminder adequately plans, delivers and support children's learning. However, the range of experiences and organisation of these toys and resources limits opportunities for children.

The home is clean and suitable. The childminder takes the necessary steps to prevent the spread of infection through promoting good hygiene practices. The quality and effectiveness of limiting risks for children in their environment are limited. Although written risk assessments clearly state risk have been identified and minimised in practice they have not, for example, the gas fire does not have a fireguard fitted, in the kitchen sharp knives are easily accessible, the wooden toy

chest poses a hazard to children and items such as the highchair are not stored safely. Children have regular outings with the childminder and visit a range of venues but a full risk assessment is not conducted for each type of outing. The childminder does not have a clear understanding of the necessary steps to take to safeguard children. She does not have an up-to-date understanding of safeguarding issues and how to implement the safeguarding policy and procedure appropriately. Therefore children's safety and welfare is compromised. There are appropriate vetting procedures in place to ensure adults having access to children are suitable to do so.

Satisfactory emphasis is placed on ensuring practice is inclusive. Partnership with parents/carers is sufficient to ensure children's individual care needs are met. There is an induction portfolio made available to parents which includes details of the childminder's qualifications, training, routines and some policies and procedures. However, there is no evidence of sharing information about the level of children's social, communication and physical skills when they first start at the setting. Parents are not kept sufficiently informed of their children's progress and achievements or how to become involved in supporting their child's learning at home. This hampers children's learning and development needs.

The childminder has undertaken some basic training in the Early Years Foundation Stage framework but does not fully understand it and its requirements. Furthermore, she has not engaged in the self-evaluation process and made little improvement to help raise achievement and promote the children's welfare and safety. As a result, although children make steady progress in their learning there are some areas of weakness and their welfare and safety are compromised.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The childminder promotes the children's learning and development sufficiently. The systems to help the childminder plan and organise activities to ensure that children receive an enjoyable and challenging learning and development experience are in the early stages. Her sound knowledge of child development and how children learn means children's individual learning needs are met adequately. Systems for planning and assessment to build on what children know or can do and observations of children's interests are developing. The childminder has started to identify what children like to do and is beginning to provide accordingly to help them make progress towards the early learning goals.

Children are well settled and confident in their environment. They have positive relationships with the childminder and easily involve her in their discussions. Children are given regular creative opportunities such as painting and using a range of arts and crafts materials. However, there are few toys and play materials on offer to provide a broad range of meaningful play experiences for children. In addition these toys and resources are not easily accessed by the children and this limits their choice. Children benefit from regular outings to theme parks, the zoo and leisure facilities. They learn about the natural environment through visiting local parks and observing changes in the environment.

Children's health, safety and well-being are compromised. Positive steps are not consistently taken to reduce risks in the environment and therefore children cannot move safely and freely at the provision and when on outings due to the lack of risk assessments. Children have daily opportunities to play outside in the fresh air and develop their physical skills.

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

Overall effectiveness

How effective is the provision in meeting the needs of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage?	4
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	3
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	4

Leadership and management

How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?	4
How effective is the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement?	4
How well does the setting work in partnership with parents and others?	3
How well are children safeguarded?	4

Quality and standards

How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?	3
How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?	4
How well are children helped to stay safe?	4
How well are children helped to be healthy?	4
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	3
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	3
How well are children helped develop skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being?	3

Any complaints about the inspection or report should be made following the procedures set out in the guidance available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk

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 (Welfare of children being cared for) 24/01/2009
- keep and implement a written statement of procedures to be followed for the protection of children, intended to safeguard the children being cared for from abuse or neglect (Arrangements for safeguarding children) (also applies to the Voluntary part of the Childcare Register) 19/12/2008
- take action as specified in the early years section of the report (Records to be kept). 19/12/2008

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 (Suitability and safety of premises and equipment). 19/12/2008
- take action as specified in the early years section of the report (Welfare of children being cared for) 24/01/2009
- take action as specified in the early years section of the report (Suitability and safety of premises and equipment). 19/12/2008
- take action as specified in the early years section of the report (Records to be kept). 19/12/2008

Annex C: complaint/s made to Ofsted

This section of the report includes details of any complaint/s made to Ofsted when:

- we took action for the provider to meet the requirements of the Early Years Register; or
- we asked the provider to take action in order to meet the requirements of the Early Years Register; or
- the provider had already taken any necessary action to meet the requirements of the Early Years Register.

We will not report on any complaint where the provider met the requirements of the Early Years Register or did not require any action by Ofsted or the registered provider.

Detail of the complaint/s

There have been no complaints since registration that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the requirements of the Early Years Register .

The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by parents, which they can see on request. The complaints record may contain complaints other than those made to Ofsted.