

Inspection report for early years provision

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| Unique reference number | 307328 |
| Inspection date | 09/10/2008 |
| Inspector | Susan Janet Lee |
| Type of setting | Childminder |

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 was registered in 2000. She lives with her husband, three adult children and younger child aged 14 in a semi detached dormer bungalow in Wardley, Swinton. The childminder's husband is an assistant who provides support on occasions.

The lounge, dining room, kitchen and toilet on the ground floor are used for childminding purposes. There is a rear garden available for outdoor play. Access to the property is gained at the side of the house on the ground floor level. The family have two tortoises as pets.

The childminder is registered to provide care for a maximum of six children at any one time. She is registered on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. There are currently four children on roll. Of these, two children are aged under five years, and two children are aged between five and eight years. The childminder has established links with other early years settings which minded children attend and that also provide the 'Early Years Foundation Stage' framework.

The childminder is able to take and collect children from the local primary school and she is a member of the National Childminding Association.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The childminder provides a safe and secure environment and she promotes children's welfare and learning well. The childminder knows the children well and meets their needs effectively. The children are happily engaged and occupied in a range of play activities and experiences. There is a good working relationship with parents and they are kept informed of their children's daily routines. The childminder has recently commenced a self-evaluation of the service she provides.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- develop systems to gather information from parents about their children's starting points
- continue to develop planning and assessment arrangements for all minded children
- review children's hygiene practices in relation to drying hands.

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

- demonstrate the action taken to arrange attendance on a first aid training course to ensure that at least one person with a current paediatric first aid certificate is on the premises at all times when children are present.

07/11/2008

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder's home is appropriately organised and gives the children opportunities to become independent. All required documentation is in place. The childminder has developed some written policies and procedures and these work in practice to promote children's health, safety and ability to make a positive contribution.

The childminder is an enthusiastic childcare practitioner. She has regard for children's well-being as she attends training to further develop her childcare practices. The childminder has a valid first aid certificate ensuring she has up to date knowledge of what to do in the event of an accident or minor injury. The childminder's husband is an assistant and he occasionally supports his wife in caring for the children. However, he does not have a valid paediatric first aid certificate and on one or two occasions since the introduction of the 'Early Years Foundation Stage' he has cared for a child whilst his wife went to collect other children from school. As a result, on these occasions no person who has a current paediatric first aid certificate has been on the premises when minded children are present.

The childminder has a commitment to the ongoing development of her childcare service through self-evaluation and monitoring. She has recently commenced a self-evaluation process and in this she outlines her strengths and areas for development. The childminder has also developed a questionnaire for parents to complete to seek their views on the service they receive. Parents' comments show that they are happy with the service provided, levels of care and activities afforded. The childminder has successfully addressed the recommendations raised at the last inspection by making potential hazards in the home safe; accessing training and development opportunities, ensuring that children's attendance is recorded and that all required documentation is available for inspection purposes.

The childminder exercises appropriate hygiene practices to minimise the risk of cross infection. However, there is only one towel available for the children to dry their hands. The childminder has a good understanding of safety and all reasonable steps have been taken to ensure that the environment in which children are cared for is safe and secure. The childminder has developed a detailed risk assessment and she also conducts a daily safety check and records her findings. The children learn to keep themselves safe through daily routines and discussion. For example, the childminder gently reminds the children not to climb and discusses the house rules. The childminder has an evacuation procedure and this is practised with the children on a regular basis to help them develop an awareness of what to do in the event of an emergency, such as a fire. The childminder has a sound understanding of child protection matters and procedures and this helps to safeguard children's welfare.

The childminder provides a warm, welcoming and inclusive environment for the

children and their parents. She encourages parents to be involved in their children's learning and shares information with them each day to keep them informed about their children's daily activities, care and learning.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The children are provided with a suitable range of age appropriate activities and experiences to help them make sound progress in all areas of their learning and development. The childminder gathers information from parents about their children's individual needs to enable her to be in a position to best meet these needs. She also talks to parents to gather some information about their children's starting points. Planning and assessment are still in the early stages of development and not yet in place for all the children. The childminder has begun to observe the children at play and she uses this information to record children's developmental progress and to plan next steps in learning. The records of children's development also include examples of children's artwork and photographs to illustrate their progress and enjoyment.

The environment is warm, welcoming and homely. Toys are stored in the lounge at child height enabling the children to make choices and develop their independence. The childminder shares close relationships with the children, who are happy and secure in her care. She knows the children well and understands children's individual needs, personalities and current interests. The childminder provides lots of positive physical contact by means of hugs and cuddles to meet the children's emotional needs and to help them feel secure. She spends time playing and talking to the children.

The children enjoy looking at a book with the childminder and naming the animals in the pictures. The childminder introduces new lines of discussion as she explains that baby sheep are called lambs and wool comes from sheep to make woolly jumpers. The children develop their hand eye coordination and fine manipulative skills as they negotiate cars around bending roadways on a garage. The childminder talks to the children about making spaces to park their cars. The children are able to add animals into their play and they spend time placing the animals on the different levels of the car park. The children enjoy being imaginative and the childminder helps them to build a castle using cushions.

The children have opportunities to enjoy and develop their physical skills in the outdoor environment. They play in the garden and visit the park and a soft play centre. Photographical documentation shows the children playing in a paddling pool in the garden and having fun at the park as they play on the climbing frame and a see-saw. The children take an interest in the world in which they live. They look at photographs and are able to recall past events such as a trip to the zoo and baking a cake. Other photographical documentation shows the children exploring flowers and insects in the garden. The children are able to touch and smell the flowers and handle the insects.

The childminder works to provide an inclusive service and she makes parents and their children feel welcome. She ensures that all activities are accessible to all the

children and adapts activities to meet children's individual needs.

The children develop a good sense of belonging and they move around with ease and confidence. They develop an awareness of caring for other living creatures as they help the childminder to look after the pet tortoises. For example, they help to feed them, bathe them and take them into the garden.

The childminder acts as a positive role model to the children. She treats the children with care and concern, uses 'please' and 'thank you' and she is consistent in the way she manages children's behaviour. As a result, the children receive a clear message of what is expected of them and they behave well.

Annex A: record of inspection judgements

The key inspection judgements and what they mean

Outstanding: this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality

Good: this aspect of the provision is strong

Satisfactory: this aspect of the provision is sound

Inadequate: this aspect of the provision is not good enough

Overall effectiveness

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

Leadership and management

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

Quality and standards

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

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: Met

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

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 made to Ofsted since the last inspection.

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.