

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	312037
Inspection date	24/09/2008
Inspector	Patricia Graham
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 1999. She lives with her husband and two children aged nine and 14 years in the Stalybridge area of Tameside. All registered rooms, including toilet facilities, are situated on the ground floor and there is easy access to the premises. The kitchen and playroom of the childminder's house are used for childminding activities.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of three children at any one time in the early years age range and is currently minding three children, part-time and one child, full-time. The childminder also makes provision for children older than the early years age group and is registered on the voluntary and compulsory part of the Childcare Register. The childminder has links with the other early years settings which minded children attend.

The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The family has a cat. The childminder is a member of a childminding network.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The childminder's secure understanding of the children's individual needs, provides them with a good selection of activities and experiences, which offer challenge and stimulation. Her successful partnership with parents, local schools and outside agencies promotes consistency of care and ensures additional support is provided to help children make good progress. The childminder has adequate systems in place to ensure continuous improvement.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- monitor outcomes for children through regular quality checks and self-assessment.

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

- conduct a risk assessment and review it regularly 08/10/2008
- review procedures for obtaining children's special health requirements. 08/10/2008

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder follows suitable policies and procedures to promote children's welfare, learning and development. Her positive attitude to professional development positively enhances the quality of her childcare provision. For

example, she has updated her first aid certificate and refreshed her knowledge of child protection issues. Consequently, children are safeguarded and benefit from her continued development. The childminder organises her home successfully to meet children's needs. For example, the play room is well stocked with an abundance of toys, resources and equipment enabling a stimulating environment for children who are becoming active and inquisitive learners.

Children's well-being is enhanced because the childminder has taken positive steps to act upon recommendations from the previous inspection by improving consent records. She has recently completed a basic self-evaluation document which highlights her key strengths. However, systems for identifying areas to develop are not yet established. The childminder has a sound understanding of keeping children safe, as systems are in place to ensure children are not left unsupervised with persons not vetted.

The childminder works in partnership with parents and outside agencies to best meet children's needs. For example, she has developed a positive relationship with the local school to ensure information is shared, which ensures continuity in their care, learning and development. Children benefit from the good partnership the childminder has developed with parents. For example, they are provided with a daily diary, which records activities, food intake and outings. This is supplemented with daily verbal updates. As a result, parents can follow their child's care and progress.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children are happy and settled as they take part in different activities provided in the child focused environment. For example, they develop their senses as they explore the textures of sand, water and shredded paper. At other times they develop their creative skills as they engage in role play. Children display good levels of independence as they freely select toys and resources from the good selection provided. Children go on regular outings to places of interest, such as toddler groups and trips to the park to feed the ducks. This widens their experiences and builds on their interests. The childminder plays with children at their level and is attentive to their needs as she actively listens to them and asks lots of open ended questions. This positively supports their learning and development.

The childminder has a secure understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) learning and development requirements. She has good systems in place to plan activities and experiences for all children to help them make progress in all areas of their learning. For example, she differentiates activities for younger children to ensure they are fully included, and observations are recorded in their progress and development files. These are complemented with lots of photographs, which truly reflect children's enjoyment. The childminder has a secure knowledge of children's capabilities and has started to use observations to plan activities to meet individual needs. This helps them succeed in their next steps of learning.

Children's health and safety is positively enhanced because the childminder has a sound understanding of procedures to follow when recording accidents and

administering medication. However, the childminder is not fully aware of children's special health needs. Children are suitably nourished with healthy foods, such as fresh fruit and home-made meals. Children's fire safety awareness is enhanced by visits to the local fire station. The childminder offers good supervision and has good systems in place for children to learn about safety issues, such as road safety. However, risk assessments are not routinely undertaken. This is a specific legal requirement and is also a requirement of the compulsory and voluntary part of the Childcare Register. This poses an element of risk to children's safety.

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

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

Leadership and management

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

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

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:

- conduct a risk assessment and review it regularly. 08/10/2008

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:

- conduct a risk assessment and review it regularly. 08/10/2008

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

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted.

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.