

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	312080
Inspection date	08/10/2008
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 1990. She lives with her husband and one adult child in the Stalybridge area of Tameside. The whole ground floor of the childminders house and two bedrooms on the first floor are used for childminding activities. Bathroom facilities are also situated on the first floor. There is an enclosed garden for outside play. The premises are reasonably accessible via two steps to the property.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of three children at any one time in the early year's age range and is currently minding two children, part-time. The childminder also makes provision for children older than the early year's age group which is registered on the voluntary and compulsory part of the Childcare register.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The childminder supports children's individual needs and seeks relevant information from parents before children attend enabling their starting points to be clearly identified. The homely environment and stimulating activities effectively promotes children's learning and development. An inclusive environment is maintained, which allows all children to take part in a wide range of activities offered. The childminder adequately reflects on her practice, which promotes positive outcomes for children.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- develop systems to ensure parents are involved in supporting their children's learning and development.
- continue to monitor outcomes through regular self-assessment taking into account the views of parents and children.

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

- undertake a risk assessment on all aspects of the environment that need to be checked and for each type of outing and maintain a record 22/10/2008
- request parental permission to seek any necessary emergency medical advice or treatment. 22/10/2008

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder implements most policies and procedures well promoting children's safety and well-being. She has required documents in place for recording accidents and exclusion guidelines for children with an infectious illness are shared with parents. The childminder has accessed child protection training enabling children in her care to be safeguarded.

The childminder successfully organises her home and outdoor activities to provide a inclusive and stimulating environment for children. She gathers relevant information from parents enabling children's starting points to be clearly identified and she strives to meet their individual needs. The childminder has adequate systems in place for liaising with parents to share information on their child's day. However, some parents are not consistently provided with information about their child's learning and development to ensure continuity of care.

The childminder has undertaken an adequate self-assessment of her provision to promote outcomes for children. She highlights her key strengths and has identified some areas to develop. However, the self-assessment does not fully take into account the views of parents and children or identify key areas to further develop. The childminder has taken positive steps to address recommendations from the previous inspection by extending resources, which reflect diversity. These provide children with increased opportunities to develop an awareness of the wider world.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The childminder has a secure understanding of the 'Early Years Foundation Stage' learning and development requirements. She offers a wide range of stimulating and exciting activities which children thoroughly enjoy. For example, they gain greater awareness of the natural environment as they feed the birds in the garden and venture on trips to the local farm to visit the animals. They become confident communicators as they make animal noises and squeal with excitement as they observe the sheep in the nearby field.

The childminder dedicates much her time supporting children in their play. She sits at their level as she plays with them and takes a keen interest in what they say and do. Consequently, children are happy and form secure attachments with her. The childminder recognises children as individuals and takes into account their likes and preferences when planning activities. For example, the indoor environment is well equipped with favourite activities, such as imaginative resources, which are easily accessible. As a result, children develop their creative skills as they engage in role play with their peers.

The childminder has effective systems in place to observe children and has recently started to record observations to monitor their progress. This clearly illustrates their enjoyment and development. The childminder is skilful at planning children's next steps as she uses meaningful props, such as cars to help children play cooperatively. Children have good opportunities to develop independence as

they initiate their own play which helps them become active learners. At other times, they display good levels of self-help skills as they take their off their shoes on arrival and climb the stairs independently.

The childminder implements good hygiene practices to help children adopt a healthy lifestyle. For example, she provides children with a good selection of home-made meals and healthy snacks. At other times children develop awareness of their personal care as the childminder appropriately supports them with hand washing after eating snacks. Their well-being is further enhanced because medication records contain required information. However, consent for emergency medical treatment is not sought in line with legal requirements. The childminders home is secure and all required safety features are in place, such as fire safety precautions, enhancing children's safety. However, written risk assessments are not in place. This is a specific legal requirement.

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?	3
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	3
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	3

Leadership and management

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

Quality and standards

How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?	2
How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?	3
How well are children helped to stay safe?	3
How well are children helped to be healthy?	3
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	2
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?	2

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:

- ensure written policies and procedures meet the requirements of the compulsory Childcare register 22/10/2008
- undertake a risk assessment of the premises and equipment. 22/10/2008

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:

- ensure written policies and procedures meet the requirements of the voluntary Childcare register 22/10/2008
- undertake a risk assessment of the premises and equipment. 22/10/2008

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.