

## Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique reference number</b>	314786
<b>Inspection date</b>	17/11/2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Joan Isabel Madden
<b>Type of setting</b>	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 15 years and 11 years. The family has a cat. They live in a house Croft, Warrington close to shops, parks, schools and pre-schools. The living room, garden room, kitchen and downstairs toilet on the ground floor and bedrooms one and four on the first floor are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. Access to the premises is suitable for people with disabilities.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time on the Early Years Register and on the compulsory and part of the Childcare Register. She is also registered on the voluntary part of the Childcare Register to enable her to care for older children. There are currently 12 children on roll aged from 18 months years to 11 years. One child attends on a full time basis the others are part time. The childminder supports children with learning difficulties. The childminder attends the local toddler group on a regular basis.

## Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Children's welfare is satisfactorily promoted and their individual care needs are provided for in agreement with the parents. However, the provision for their learning and development is weak. The children's individual learning requirements are not being met, to enable them to effectively work towards the early learning goals. The childminder does not evaluate her provision or strive to bring about continuous improvement. She has a positive partnership with parents but has not yet set up systems to report on their children's progress or set up links with partnerships in the wider context to promote the care and education of the 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:

- ensure Ofsted is informed of any significant event that affects the care of the children (Suitable people) 05/12/2008
- devise an action plan to secure your knowledge and understanding of the learning and development requirements, in order to put procedures in place, to effectively enable the children to work towards the early learning goals in the six areas of learning (Learning and development) 05/12/2008
- maintain a record of the aspects of the environment 05/12/2008

identified from the risk assessments that need to be checked on a regular basis (Suitable premises)

- take all reasonable steps to ensure children's safety in relation to the use of climbing frame and trampoline, adult gym equipment, trip hazards on the stairway and near doorways, electricity and gas checks and having contingency arrangement in place in case of an emergency. (Suitable premises)

05/12/2008

To improve the early years provision the registered person should:

- establish a system to monitor provision through regular quality checks and self-assessment in order to identify targets for improvement
- establish an effective two-way flow of information with parents and other providers to promote the integration of care to ensure the children's progression and continuity of learning
- improve hygiene in relation to the nappy changing routine and the provision of clean bedding for the cots.

## **The leadership and management of the early years provision**

The childminder is busy, with a wide age range of children on roll. Her attendance record is clear and comprehensive, demonstrating that she is working within the conditions of her registration, as regards the ratios of children. The children are well supervised and all persons living in the household have been vetted. However, she has not notified Ofsted of a significant event, in that two bedrooms on the first floor, are now being used for children, without first being granted a variation to her conditions of registration.

The childminder does not have a system in place for evaluating her provision. She has not attended any recent training courses to learn about the new requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and from this lack of knowledge her capacity to meet the requirements is limited. However, good progress has been made with the recommendation raised at the last inspection as the children are now provided with fresh drinking water at all times.

The childminder has positive partnerships with parents who speak highly of the provision. Care arrangements for the children are carried out in agreement with parents to meet their individual needs for food and sleeping arrangements. Parents receive daily information on the care of their children through verbal feedback at the end of the day. However, as the childminder doesn't carry out any assessments on the children, to monitor their progress towards the early learning goals, she is unable to provide the parents with this information. The childminder has not yet set up systems with external agencies or other providers to ensure progression and continuity of learning and care.

The childminder's knowledge of safeguarding issues and procedures is insecure. However, she knows she has a responsibility and has sufficient, although dated

information, in her file that would allow her to follow appropriate procedures. She has the required risk assessments in place for indoors, outdoors and outings in place. These are clearly presented but not all hazards to the children have been identified. She does not maintain a record of hazards to be checked on a regular basis. Records on the children are appropriately maintained and the childminder is aware that these should remain confidential and be stored appropriately. However, there is no procedure in place, to be followed in relation to written complaints or for recording them.

## **The quality and standards of the early years provision**

The children are welcomed into a child friendly environment where there is plenty of natural light. There is sufficient space indoors and outdoors for movement and activities to be spread out. The rooms are maintained at a comfortable temperature as the radiators are thermostatically controlled and the childminder operates a smoke free policy. The toilet facilities are downstairs and easily accessible to the children, helping to promote their self-help and independence skills. The house is clean and the childminder encourages the children to adopt sensible hygiene routines, such as washing their hands at appropriate times of the day. However, she doesn't clean the nappy changing mat in between changes and the cot bedding for each child is infrequently changed. Generally, there are sensible safety measures in place. The premises are secure indoors and outdoors and high priority is put upon the safety of children in case of fire and fire prevention. There is a comprehensive emergency evacuation plan in place and appropriate fire detection and control equipment in place. However, some safety issues relating to how children use the large climbing frame and trampoline, the storage of the adult gym equipment and hazards on the stairway and near doorways have been identified. Additionally, there is no procedure in place for electricity and gas checks and no contingency arrangement in place in case of an emergency.

The children are treated appropriately for minor injuries as the childminder is suitably qualified in first aid and has a fully stocked first aid box. The childminder keeps written records of the children's allergies, likes and dislikes to ensure their individual dietary requirements are met. They are provided with nutritious meals and snacks. The children were observed having grapes for snack and roast dinner with fresh vegetables for lunch. The childminder encourages the children to take regular drinks of water as they play. There is a reasonable range of resources that children are able to access easily. The childminder has a suitable range of equipment to care for the very young children including two good quality travel cots. These are used in agreement with parents to meet children's individual needs for resting and sleeping.

The childminder has an insecure knowledge of the learning and development requirements and is unable to demonstrate that the six areas of learning are covered in sufficient breadth and depth, particularly in knowledge and understanding of the world, problem solving, reasoning and numeracy, creative development and physical development. As a result very little evidence was gathered for these areas and any progress the children make is incidental. The

childminder does not undertake observational assessments in order to plan the next learning steps for the children. She is however an experienced childminder who intuitively provides the children with some worthwhile activities particularly to promote their language and social skills. The children are building up positive relationships with the childminder helping them to feel secure and safe. They confidently approach her to express their needs. The childminder remains calm and positive at all times and is able to employ effective behaviour management techniques. For example, she successfully breaks up disputes between the very young, using distraction methods and encouraging them to share and take turns. The younger children's language skills are developing well as the childminder talks to the children throughout the visit. As she shares books with them she is introducing them to new words and concepts. Children enjoy looking at books independently and mark making. They are able to join in with the actions for familiar nursery and number rhymes. The young children are learning to join pieces together of construction kits and are beginning to attempt inset puzzles. There is an outdoor garden available to children with equipment to promote a range of skills, however this is not regularly used during the colder months. The children are taken on outings to parks and local facilities helping them to learn about the immediate area.

## 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

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

### Leadership and management

<b>How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?</b>	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?	3

### Quality and standards

<b>How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?</b>	4
<b>How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?</b>	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?	4
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	4
How well are children helped develop skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being?	4

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](http://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:

- 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 (applies to both parts of the Childcare Register) (Arrangements for safeguarding children) 05/12/2008
- put in place a written statement of procedures to be followed in relation to written complaints and keep a written record of these complaints including the outcome of the investigation and the action taken (applies to both parts of the Childcare Register) (Procedures for dealing with complaints) 05/12/2008

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 compulsory childcare register section of the report 05/12/2008



## **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 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.