

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	314939
Inspection date	10/10/2008
Inspector	Joan Isabel Madden
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 1996. She lives with her son aged 15 years. They live in a dormer bungalow in Lymm, Cheshire close to schools, pre-schools, shops and parks. There is suitable access for people with mobility difficulties, as all the facilities are on one level. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding. This includes lounge, playroom, single bedroom, bathroom and kitchen. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

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 child care register to enable her to care for older children. There are currently nine children on roll aged from two months years to seven years. Of these, one child attends on a full time basis and the remainder are part time. The childminder supports children with disabilities and is a member of the National Childminding Association.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

High priority is put on the uniqueness of each child and the childminder is committed to meeting their individual needs and in doing so provides a high standard of care. The highly experienced childminder knows the children well and can identify the next stages in their learning. As a result children make good progress towards the early learning goals. The childminder is committed to maintaining continuous improvement through self evaluation and executing development plans to bring about improvement. She has a successful partnership with parents but has not yet extended this to partnerships in the wider context.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- develop planning and assessments to ensure that, over time, each learning area is covered in sufficient breadth and depth.
- develop a system for maintaining a regular two-way flow of information with other providers and services to promote the integration of care education and any extended services
- continue to develop risk assessments including those for outings, to ensure all aspects that need to be checked on a regular basis are included in the records.

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

- ensure fresh drinking water is available at all times. 27/10/2008

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder is conscientious. She adheres to her conditions of registrations, closely supervises the children and knows of her responsibility to ensure all people living in the house are vetted. The childminder's knowledge of how to deal with safe guarding issues is secure with all the required documentation in place. She has risk assessments in place for all aspects of the environment. However, minor safety issues have been identified and risk assessments for each specific outing are not sufficiently detailed. All other documentation meets the required standards. The childminder ensures that the children's individual records remain confidential and are stored appropriately.

The childminder demonstrates an ongoing commitment to continuous improvement. She is attending training courses on the requirements for learning and development to enable her to further develop her planning and assessments and to become more familiar with how children progress towards the early learning goals. Good progress has been made since the last inspection when the childminder was required to improve documentation. She has successfully implemented a procedure to seek written parental consent for emergency medical treatment and to record existing injuries should the need arise.

Over the years the childminder has established good working relationships with the parents. Parents speak highly of the provision. They are made to feel welcome with information displayed for them as they enter the premises. The childminder encourages a two way flow of information between her and the parents. She provides them with a diary as a medium for communication and shares the children's achievements with the parents. For example, they listen to the tape of children playing with musical instruments and singing. However, the childminder has not yet set up systems with external agencies or other providers to ensure progression and continuity of learning and care.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The childminder has a sound knowledge and understanding of the welfare requirements and conscientiously attempts to meet these to provide good care for the children. The children are welcomed into a clean, bright and child friendly environment, that is all on one level. They point out the rainbow colours on the wall as the natural light is refracted through glass ornaments. Furniture and coat pegs are at an appropriate height for children, helping to promote their independence and self help skills. The childminder places high priority on keeping the children safe and on them learning about safety. For example, she measures the children to ensure they travel in car seats appropriate for their size. The pre-school children are reminded to be careful around babies and not to throw toys. However, a couple of minor safety issues relating to the kettle and water gathering outside have been identified. In the main strong emphasis is put upon children developing healthy lifestyles. She ensures they experience outdoor activities on a daily basis and provides them with nutritious meals and snacks. However fresh drinking water is not sufficiently promoted. The children confidently move around the premise where

there is plenty of space to take part in activities and rest. There is an abundance of toys and equipment to choose from, but they are arranged in such a way, that it is difficult to access some of them quickly and easily.

By attending courses the childminder is building up a good knowledge of the learning and development requirements of the EYFS. She is a highly experienced carer who provides the children with a suitable range of worthwhile activities and understands the importance of purposeful play. She is able to engage them in activities and appropriately supports their learning through encouragement, praise and role modelling. As a result they are very well behaved, respectful and mannerly. Routines include a balance of child-initiated and adult-led activities. The childminder successfully judges when it is appropriate to let a child play independently and when to support and intervene. She knows the children well and uses their interests as a starting point for learning. Through observations and assessments she is able to identify the next stages of development. However planning and assessments do not demonstrate that each learning area is covered in sufficient breadth and depth.

The children and babies are very settled and secure. They happily explore the resources available and are highly motivated to learn and take part in activities. Children are encouraged to think and express themselves as they play. For example, a child confidently talks about the flamingo and dolphin she has drawn. Children explore a wide range of programmable toys, thereby showing an interest in why things happen and making things happen. The childminder demonstrates to the babies how to press buttons to open farm doors. As children play with an electronic telephone they are learning the names of different shapes and colours and beginning to learn about positional language. Children are encouraged to develop their interests, such as playing musical instruments and singing. They enjoy recording their music onto tapes and playing it back. This helps them to realise that their work is valued and can be shared with others.

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

Leadership and management

How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?	Good
How effective is the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement?	Good
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?	Good
How well are children helped to stay safe?	Good
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:	Met
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The provider confirms that the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register are:	Met
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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 registration or 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

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