

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	315486
Inspection date	19/03/2009
Inspector	Anne Mort
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 10 year old son in Horwich, near to Bolton. The middle room on the ground floor of the property, and the first floor bathroom are used for childminding purposes. In addition to this, two bedrooms are available to accommodate children who sleep through the day. The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and both parts of the Childcare Register. She is registered to care for a maximum of three children at any one time and all three may be in the early years age range. There are currently 11 children on roll. The childminder works flexible hours each weekday and currently supports children for whom there are specific needs. Children do not play outside at the front or rear of the property but the childminder uses her own car to take children out on a daily basis to parks, play groups and activity play venues.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The quality of the provision is good. The childminder helps children to settle and feel secure and they experience close relationships with each other. This is resulting in children making good progress in their play and learning. The childminder actively promotes inclusion. She is keen to continue evaluating her practice and is aware of areas for improvement.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- develop the system for planning a child's progress, to illustrate that planned next steps cover all areas of learning.

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

- carry out a full risk assessment for each type of outing
(Safeguarding and promoting children's welfare)

03/04/2009

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder is a committed childcare practitioner with a high regard for children's well-being. This is evidenced in the training courses she has recently undertaken to further develop her childcare practice. An inclusive and welcoming service is provided for children. The childminder builds sound and supportive relationships with the children's parents and they are kept informed about her setting and their child's well-being.

Written policies, made available to parents, are clear and comprehensive. There is

a good system for the recording of medicine administration and of any accidents. Procedures are implemented effectively to ensure children's welfare is safeguarded. Parents provide details about their child and agreed contractual and written consents between the childminder and parents are established. The childminder welcomes liaison with, and fully supports, outside agencies. This promotes a trusting partnership with all concerned in the welfare of a child, to enable appropriate support to be given.

Child protection guidance literature is readily available, thus promoting children's safety. The childminder gives full consideration in her trips out with children but has not risk assessed each type of outing. However, written risk assessments for the premises and daily safety checks promote children's safety well. Security within the home is well maintained and children are closely supervised. Equipment and resources are inspected regularly to ensure they are safe and suitable for the children attending.

Children thrive in the supportive environment which is equipped with a varied range of well maintained toys, furniture and equipment. Efficient practices followed by the childminder result in children being protected from illness and the spread of infection. Children are provided with a good range of healthy well balanced meals that take account of their individual dietary needs.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The childminder provides a relaxed and nurturing atmosphere and children thoroughly enjoy their time with her. They enjoy caring relationships with each other and are developing high levels of self esteem, confidence and trust. The childminder has a good understanding of the different ways in which children learn. She uses her knowledge of children's developmental stages and interests to plan a wide range of experiences for children, both in her home and in the many opportunities for outings, such as play groups, parks, physical activity venues and the seaside. This stimulates their interest in learning and exploration, because of this, children make very good progress in their learning from their starting points.

Written observations and assessments about what children can do, enables the childminder to provide a clear outline of how she will move them forward. The planning for a child's next steps does not always cover the six areas of learning. However, the observations are informative and future steps for children are achievable and set realistic expectations. There is a strong emphasis on inclusion, all children are valued and respected as individuals and are encouraged to show care and concern for those around them.

Children have good opportunities to develop their social skills as they meet regularly with other children and experience the wider world as they go on outings. Space, time and resources are organised to meet the needs of the children and enhance their play experiences. Toys and books are available at child height, enabling the children to initiate their own ideas, make choices and develop independence.

Children investigate how things work and seek to do things themselves, knowing that the childminder is close by to help and support if needed. For instance, they happily discover how to use a pot of water, a paintbrush and paint palette to transfer colour onto paper. Their self esteem is raised because the childminder smiles, talks with them and praises their efforts. Children's manipulative skills are developing well as they squeeze and roll out the play dough and enjoy the challenge of the shape cutters.

The childminder offers a healthy snack, for instance fresh fruit. She makes a drink readily available by providing children with their own covered cup stored within their easy reach. Children are taken out on a daily basis and are given good opportunities to have fresh air in their outside play at the local park and also use their physical abilities in activity play centres, to further develop the physical skills that contribute towards a healthy lifestyle. The affectionate and gentle care given by the childminder enables all children to develop a sense of belonging and trust and learn at a pace suitable to their abilities.

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?	2
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	2
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	2

Leadership and management

How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?	2
How effective is the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement?	2
How well does the setting work in partnership with parents and others?	2
How well are children safeguarded?	2

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?	2
How well are children helped to stay safe?	2
How well are children helped to be healthy?	2
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	2
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	2
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:	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 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.