

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY136517
Inspection date	19/06/2009
Inspector	(Kate) Kathryn, Jane Ryder
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 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 2002. She lives with her three children aged seven, nine and 14 years in a house in the Failsworth area of Oldham. The home is accessed at ground floor level to the front of the property. The whole of the ground floor and first floor bathroom facilities are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden for outdoor play. The family has two dogs and a rabbit.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of three children at any one time and she currently cares for two children, one of whom is in the early years age group. The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall, the quality of the provision is inadequate. The childminder lacks knowledge about the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) framework. Consequently, several welfare requirements are not met, resulting in children's safety being compromised. There are no systems in place for observing and planning, which directly impacts on children's ability to make progress towards the early learning goals. There are no processes for monitoring the effectiveness of her provision, therefore weaknesses and achievements are not recognised.

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:

- improve knowledge and understanding of the EYFS in order to fully support children in their learning and development and use observations and assessments to plan relevant learning experiences for each child (Educational programmes) 17/07/2009
- develop a clear understanding of safeguarding children issues, for example, the recognition of signs and symptoms of child abuse and the referral procedure (Safeguarding and welfare) 17/07/2009
- further develop awareness and understanding of effective ways to manage children's behaviour, taking into account their age and stage of development (Behaviour management) (also applies to both parts of the Childcare Register) 17/07/2009
- ensure Ofsted is notified of changes to persons aged over 16 years living in the premises (Suitability of 17/07/2009

- adults) (also applies to both parts of the Childcare Register)
- maintain a record of risk assessments which clearly states when they were carried out and dates of reviews (Suitable premises, environment and equipment) (also applies to both parts of the Childcare Register) 17/07/2009
- take reasonable steps to make sure that hazards to children are minimised, specifically in relation to tree stumps in the garden (Suitable premises, environment and equipment) (also applies to both parts of the Childcare Register). 17/07/2009

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder does not implement any form of self-evaluation which would enable her to reflect on what she does well and identify any areas for improvement. This has caused her to breach several of the legal requirements of the EYFS and compromise children's safety. She does not carry out risk assessments of the home and outdoor environments. She has failed to notify Ofsted about a significant change in her circumstances and she lacks sound knowledge of the strategies to use in the management of young children's unwanted behaviour.

The childminder keeps parents informed about their children through daily informal conversations. She gathers basic information about children's individual needs during the induction period, although she is not pro-active in finding out about their starting points. The childminder informs parents about her policies and procedures, such as uncollected or lost child and complaints, and displays her registration and public liability insurance certificates for them to see.

The childminder does not have a thorough knowledge of safeguarding issues. She has some awareness of the signs and symptoms of child abuse but is unclear about the referral procedure. This compromises children's safety. In general, appropriate safety measures are taken in the home which contribute to keeping children safe. However, trees have been cut down in the garden and stumps are raised above ground level causing a serious trip hazard.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The childminder has not developed her knowledge about the learning and development requirements of the EYFS. She is not aware of the areas of learning and she does not have any systems for observing what children can do. This means that she fails to identify the next steps in children's learning. The childminder intuitively provides children with some play activities which contribute to their general development. For example, they occasionally bake and paint and they enjoy colouring pictures with felt-tip pens and coloured pencils.

The childminder clearly enjoys the company of children and spends long periods actively engaged in their play. For example, she closely interacts with children playing with the farm set, joining in the role play. Children use their imaginations extremely well as they transport pigs from their farm to a different one. They load them into the transporter and hitch it up to the tractor, then begin to move it across the carpet whilst making the sounds of the vehicle. Children line cars up at the top of the garage ramp and take delight in seeing them tumble to the ground as they turn the knob. They name the colours of the cars as they play but they are not encouraged to count them. Children enjoy opportunities for stories and repeat unfamiliar words with pleasure, such as rumpeter which is the word used in the book to describe the way the elephant moves. The childminder talks with the children as she joins in their play, however, she does not always ask them questions to challenge their thinking.

Play areas are sufficiently well organised. They provide children with space to move around freely and in comfort. In the main, children select what they want to play with from the range the childminder sets out. The childminder respects parental wishes with regard to meals and stores packed lunches appropriately. Children help themselves to cartons of juice from their lunch box to quench their thirst.

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?	4
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	3
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	4

Leadership and management

How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?	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?	4

Quality and standards

How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?	4
How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?	4
How well are children helped to stay safe?	4
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?	3
How well are children helped develop skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being?	3

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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 the written statement of procedures to be followed for the protection of children reflects current guidance (CR2.1) (also applies to the voluntary part of the Childcare Register) 17/07/2009
- take action as specified in the early years section of the report (CR5.4, CR5.1, CR6.2, CR10). 17/07/2009

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 above in the compulsory Childcare Register section of the report (CR2.1) 17/07/2009
- take action as specified in the early years section of the report (CR5.4, CR5.1, CR6.2, CR10). 17/07/2009