

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY152101
Inspection date	08/12/2008
Inspector	Janice Shaw
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 2001. She lives with her partner and four children, aged 19, 16, 13, and nine, in the Chorlton area of Manchester. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house and the first floor bathroom and toilet are used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. Access to the house is suitable for children with disabilities.

The childminder is registered to provide care for a maximum of six children at any one time, under the Early Years Register and the compulsory part of the Childcare Register. The childminder is also registered on the voluntary part of the Childcare Register, to enable her to care for older children. There are currently five children on roll, three of whom are on the Early Years Register.

The childminder holds the Certificate in Childminding Practice level 3 and a Quality First Assurance level 3 certificate. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Children thrive in an environment that is child focused and organised, to meet their individual needs. This helps them to make good progress in all aspects of their learning. The childminder's secure knowledge of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), enables her to identify correctly areas for continuous improvement. Effective systems are in place for monitoring and evaluating her practice, as well as identifying key strengths and areas for improvement. Through seeking to develop her own knowledge, she has developed the quality of her service, to effectively promote the learning and development of all of the children she cares for.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- continue to develop the observation and assessment system ensuring that each child's next steps are identified and that parents are encouraged to share in the assessment
- ensure that the risk assessment covers everything a child may come into contact with
- take necessary steps to promote the good health of children by ensuring that all food given to them is safe and appropriate.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

Children enjoy a stimulating and interesting environment. The childminder's home is very child centred and resources are arranged to be easily accessible to even the

youngest child. The childminder demonstrates a clear knowledge and understanding of the procedures for safeguarding children. An almost complete set of risk assessments is in place, which covers most areas of her home and for taking children on outings. Good progress has been made since the last inspection, when the childminder was required to improve the sensory experiences for children.

A well organised and comprehensive set of children's documentation is in place. This information is successfully implemented, to ensure that all children in her care are safe and well cared for. The childminder has successfully embraced the changes brought about by the implementation of the Early Years Foundation Stage. She is constantly seeking ways to improve her provision and attends training courses whenever possible. The self evaluation form has been used as a way of reflecting on what she does well and identifies areas for improvement.

Very good working relationships exist with parents, ensuring that children experience continuity of care. Good quality information is made available to them regarding the childminder's service. Discussions at either end of the day and a completed daily profile book, keeps parents well informed about their child's day. At the childminder's request for the benefit of the inspection, parents have written many comments about her service. All are very positive and describe how well their children have developed whilst in her care.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The childminder's secure knowledge of the Early Years Foundation Stage leads to children making good progress towards the early learning goals. She uses her home and her knowledge of child development to good effect. The environment is organised in such a way, to ensure that children can safely and easily access toys and resources, that are suitable for their individual stage of development. Information is gathered from parents about the children's likes, dislikes and the things they can do and the childminder uses this as a basis on which to build their learning. Children's starting points are identified and they are carefully observed as they play and learn. This information is recorded and linked to the six areas of learning, in their individual learning journey books and shared regularly with parents. However, this system is still in its early stages and does not as yet identify every child's next steps for development. Whilst parents know about the books and can look at them whenever they want, they do not as yet contribute to the process.

Children are encouraged to choose for themselves from the broad range of resources available. They can choose from some open shelving, plastic boxes and those arranged around the living room, this contributes to children's growing independence. They regularly embark on outings to local parks, toddler groups and activity clubs. This extends the children's awareness of their local environment and gives them opportunities to take exercise in the fresh air and to develop their physical skills. A rich selection of books is freely available and shared with the children spontaneously during the day. Children's communication skills are developing well, as the childminder responds to toddlers babbling and gurgling, by

constantly talking to them. They are confident and sociable and respond to visitors, by smiling at them and playing peek-a-boo repeatedly. Children are very well supported by the childminder, who helps them to understand why and how they should share toys and take turns. There is a broad range of interesting resources freely available, that promotes children's understanding of the wider world. All these experiences contributes to their future economic well-being.

Young children's safety is assured in most areas and children learn how to keep themselves safe. For example, an evacuation plan is in place and the childminder is encouraging the young children to respond to her instructions. Although, a risk assessment is in place for indoors, it does not include electrical sockets. The childminder is perceptive in recognising children's individual needs for example, when a two year old appears tired out of his pattern, the childminder knows that this is a sign that he is ready for a sleep. Children benefit from a range of healthy and nutritious snacks, such as rice crackers and grapes. However, some of the grapes could present as a choking hazard, as they are whole and a one year old was observed running and climbing with these whole grapes in his mouth. Water is freely available in their individual cups and children can quench their thirst whenever they wish.

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

Ofsted received concerns relating to National Standard 6 - Safety and National Standard 7 - Health. Ofsted visited the provision on 20 April 2007. An action was raised and satisfactorily met by the Registered Provider. The provider remains qualified for registration.

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.