

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY355766
Inspection date	21/10/2008
Inspector	Janice Linsdell
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 2007. She lives with her three children; a five-year-old child and two adults. The family live in the Whalley Range area of Manchester. Most areas on the ground floor are used for childminding purposes. There is a secure garden available for outdoor play. There are no pets kept on the premises.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time. There are currently three children on roll who are within the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). The childminder may also care for children aged over five years and this provision is registered by Ofsted on the compulsory and voluntary childcare register. There are currently no children attending with learning difficulties or disabilities. The childminder supports children who speak English as an additional language. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The childminder has recently started to care for children and she is working well to develop positive relationships so that children feel welcome and settled. Children's welfare is well promoted because the childminder shows a caring approach and recognises the importance of treating children as individuals and listening to their views. Children's good health and partnership with parents is a strength of the setting, but there are gaps in procedures relating to safeguarding children, conducting risk assessments and obtaining parental consent. Children are beginning to make some progress in their learning and development, however, the childminder is not planning activities effectively to meet children's learning needs. She shows some commitment to improving and developing her skills as a childminder, but systems to review and evaluate childminding practice and its impact on the children are lacking.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- obtain information and become familiar with the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures, including relevant contact numbers, and keep this readily accessible at all times
- use observations of the children to plan a broad range of experiences that meet their individual learning needs, ensuring all areas of learning are covered in sufficient depth
- implement procedures to monitor and evaluate the quality of the setting to further enhance children's welfare, learning and development.

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

- conduct a risk assessment of the premises and for each type of outing undertaken with the children, and review

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- it regularly
- request written parental permission for the seeking of any necessary emergency medical advice or treatment.

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The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder relates well to the children and offers a suitable range of activities to encourage their learning and development. She organises her childminding arrangements appropriately to promote children's welfare and encourage their learning. She has completed the required basic training in childminding and first aid, and attends some additional courses to improve her knowledge, such as EYFS and safeguarding. She is beginning to familiarise herself with the EYFS resource pack and shows some understanding of how children learn and develop. Most required documentation to safeguard and promote children's welfare is adequately maintained, but parental consent for emergency treatment is not in place as required.

Parents are kept well informed about the children and childminding arrangements via the written policies, general chats and the 'daily news' sheets. Children benefit from the good links developing between parents and other settings, such as school and the childminder respects issues around confidentiality. She understands her role in keeping children safe from harm, but she does not have access to relevant information regarding safeguarding procedures to assist her in taking appropriate steps to protect children. She carries out visual checks to ensure the premises are safe for the children attending. However, she is not conducting risks assessment of the premises or for each type of outing that she undertakes with the children. The childminder has some awareness of her strengths and areas for development, but procedures for carrying out self evaluation in order to enhance outcomes for children are still being developed.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children are settling well and starting to make some progress in their learning and development. The childminder is very caring and provides a suitable range of activities for children to enjoy. The lounge is adequately organised with a selection of play materials to promote learning in some areas. The daily routine shows children take part in a balance of free play and some planned activities, such as crafts, baking and using the play dough. The childminder completes the 'all about me' sheet with parents to gather information about the children's needs and preferences, which helps to promote their welfare. She is beginning to collect photographic evidence of children involved in different activities and record some evaluation of what children are learning, including their next steps. However, there are some gaps in the details recorded and the childminder is not using the information to plan effectively to meet children's learning needs and ensure all areas of learning are being covered in sufficient depth.

Children's knowledge of the local community is developing well. For example, they

enjoy collecting leaves on outings and using them in their painting activities. They make good use of the local children's centre by attending various play sessions, such as song and story time, which also encourages their social development. Children learn to count as they build with the blocks and use problem solving in everyday activities, such as helping to sort, match and pair the family socks. They have opportunities to ride bikes, play football and explore the sand in the garden. The childminder encourages children's interest in books by reading stories together and creates opportunities for children to practice their writing and drawing skills. She is also encouraging and supporting children to learn English as a second language. This helps them to develop skills for the future.

The childminder gives priority to children's health and well-being. She shows much care and sensitivity to children who are poorly as she gently soothes them until they are collected by an adult. Children brush their teeth and dry their hands on paper towels, which helps them to learn about good oral hygiene and minimises the risk of cross infection. Overall, the childminder takes appropriate measures to ensure children's safety and security, pointing out hazards to help children develop an awareness of keeping themselves safe. At the moment children are not taking part in fire drills, which limits their understanding of what to do in the event of an emergency. The childminder encourages good behaviour and shows appreciation for children's efforts. She values their achievements by displaying their artwork in the hallway, which helps them to develop a sense of belonging in the setting.

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

Leadership and management

How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?	Satisfactory
How effective is the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement?	Satisfactory
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?	Satisfactory
How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?	Satisfactory
How well are children helped to stay safe?	Satisfactory
How well are children helped to be healthy?	Good
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	Satisfactory
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	Satisfactory
How well are children helped develop skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being?	Satisfactory

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

The provider confirms that the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register are: Met

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.

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.