

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY363077
Inspection date	17/11/2008
Inspector	Debra Elizabeth Jean Dahlstrom
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 late 2007. She lives with her husband and children in the Heywood area of Greater Manchester. All of the ground floor of the childminder's house and the bathroom on the upper floor are used for childminding purposes. There is a fully enclosed back garden for outside play. The family have two dogs. The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register, the compulsory part of the Childcare Register and the voluntary part of the Childcare Register. She is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time. There are local schools, pre-school and shops within walking distance. The childminder collects and takes children to the local playgroups and schools.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The well-organised environment ensures children progress well, they are happy and very settled. All children are valued as the childminder strives, through ongoing training, to improve her practice to meet individual needs. The childminder promotes all aspects of children's welfare with success, ensuring that children are safe and secure. Good relationships exist with parents and developing links are established with other providers involved in children's care. Through her commitment to continuous improvement and self-evaluation, the childminder is aware of her own development needs. In improving her knowledge and skills she secures further improvement to her service.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- develop the existing risk assessment to include the trampoline
- continue to develop systems to effectively assess children to ascertain their achievements

The leadership and management of the early years provision

Record keeping is well organised with most of the required documentation in place, which ensures the safety and welfare of all children. The childminder has taken a range of positive steps to ensure that hazards to children, both indoors and outdoors, are kept to a minimum. She has devised a written risk assessment and ensures regular safety checks are carried out however some relevant detail is missing for outdoor equipment, such as the trampoline.

Children benefit from an attractive, dedicated play room with readily accessible, good quality resources, particularly books, many of which promote equality of opportunity and inclusion. Children, therefore, are supported well in the importance of valuing and respecting others. The childminder continually looks to critically analyse her strengths and weaknesses, in doing so she identifies areas for

further development through reflecting and self-evaluating her practice. She is enthusiastic and committed to providing a high standard of childcare and education for children. She ensures regular attendance on numerous training courses to keep abreast of current issues.

Good quality policies and procedures shared with parents ensure they are well informed about the service and their children's progress. The childminder ensures information is displayed about the Early Years Foundation Stage and that children's files are readily accessible for their parents at all times.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

A warm and caring approach by the childminder ensures children are happy and secure in her care. She takes great interest in what they say and do, thus children feel valued as they are praised for their contributions and achievements

Children are confident and independent learners and make good progress in their overall development as the childminder organises a range of stimulating activities across all areas of learning. Her sensitive questioning of children enables them to become critical thinkers, as they learn about hot and cold, for example. They are developing life long learning skills which will contribute greatly to their future economic well-being. Children enjoy the different processes of cooking, such as baking bread or making jelly and stirring until it becomes a warm liquid before eventually setting. They love to make their own sandwiches as they spread the butter and choose from a selection of healthy filling choices. Children are confident communicators and are beginning to successfully link sounds to letters as the childminder works with them and also supporting those in children reception classes with their key words.

The childminder provides ample opportunities for children to learn more about the outdoors, for example, they joyfully explore the deep puddles after heavy rain in their Wellingtons. They have rich imaginations as they discover 'dinosaur bones' on a local walk or build dens in the garden with large cardboard boxes.

Children behave well, as the childminder's calm and consistent approach ensures they learn about turn taking and sharing. They, with the childminders support devised a simple list of rules which clearly reminds children of the importance of being kind to each other and is prominently on display.

The childminder knows the children very well, with a clear understanding of their stages of development. Daily observations are made and recorded with clear plans in place to move children on to the next stages of their development, thus enabling them to reach their learning potential. The childminder uses a number of detailed systems to chart the progress of children all of which are in the formative stages and some due to be reviewed.

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?	3
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 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.