

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY366161
Inspection date	29/10/2008
Inspector	Judith Anne Kerr
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).

Children only attend this setting before and/or after the school day and/or during the school holidays. The judgements in this report reflect the quality of early years provision offered to children during those periods.

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 2008. She lives with her three teenage children in the Burnage area of Manchester. The play room, lounge, first floor bathroom and toilet of the childminder's house are used for childminding. Access is gained to the property at the front of the house on the ground floor level. There is a fully enclosed garden for outdoor play. The property is within walking distance of local amenities.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary part of the Childcare Register. There are currently two children on roll who attend on part time placements; both of these children are on the Early Years Register.

The childminder takes children on visits to the park and library. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The childminder provides an agreeable environment which is monitored and assessed to ensure continual improvement. These systems recognise her strengths but fail to identify areas for development. She provides a welcoming and inclusive service for all children with a broad range of interesting, age appropriate activities which promote their learning. Positive working relationships have been established with parents and most of the welfare requirements are met.

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 partnership with parents and carers to establish starting points for children and with other providers to support children's ongoing learning and development; ensure the next steps of children's learning are predicted and show clearly how they inform future planning
- improve self-assessment systems to identify clear targets for future improvement.

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

- conduct a risk assessment for each type of outing and obtain prior written permission for each and every medicine from parents before any medication is given 15/11/2008
- conduct a risk assessment of the premises and review it regularly, at least once a year or more (also applies to the compulsory part and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register). 15/11/2008

The leadership and management of the early years provision

Daily routines promote children's welfare, meet their needs and work appropriately in practice to positively promote children's health, safety, enjoyment, achievement and ability to make a positive contribution. The childminder is keen to develop her knowledge and attends ongoing training. For example, she has recently attended courses for the six areas of learning and safeguarding. The childminder is committed to providing an inclusive service where children, parents and others feel welcome. Resources, such as dolls and play figures help the children understand the wider world in which they live.

Self-assessment systems to monitor the quality of the provision are in place. These identify improvements which have been made to the garden since registration. Overall, the childminder fails to identify any areas for development. Although she recognises potential risks to children there are no recorded risk assessments for the premises or the varied outings that she undertakes with the children. This is a breach of the regulations as there is no record of ongoing safety being continuously checked. The childminder is unaware that her current processes to support children's learning towards the early learning goals are limited and there are no established links with other providers of the Early Years Foundation Stage to ensure children's developmental needs are fully supported across the different provisions they attend. As a result, parents and others are not contributing to the assessment of children's progress.

The childminder maintains most of the required records and documentation to ensure the care needs of all children are met. However, written consent for administering long term medication is not requested from parents. This is a breach of regulations and means parents are not fully informed. The childminder has developed a portfolio of written policies and procedures which are discussed and agreed with parents during the admission procedure. Parents are encouraged to share what they know about their child and this supports their ongoing care needs. These help demonstrate her awareness of safeguarding and other procedures, such as dealing with complaints. She understands the procedures to follow in the event she has concerns about a child in her care and all adults on the premises have been checked to ensure their suitability to be in close proximity to children. These systems protect children from harm and abuse.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The premises are clean and the childminder follows appropriate hygiene routines that help keep children healthy. Children are provided with healthy snacks, such as fruit. They have easy access to drinks throughout the day, enabling them to control their own thirst needs. When food is provided by parents the childminder ensures it is stored correctly. Clear agreements with parents demonstrate the childminder has a sound awareness of the need to take appropriate action when children are ill. Close supervision and secure premises indoors and outside help to ensure children are unable to leave unsupervised. Toys are of good quality, age appropriate and easily accessed to allow children to make their own choices. Children can explore

their play space with most potential risks minimised. For example, safety gates are in use and smoke alarms fitted. However, the drain, shed and a poisonous castor oil plant are accessible in the garden. These pose a hazard to children's safety,

Positive and caring relationships exist between the children and the childminder. As a result, children are relaxed and happy in her care. They are curious and keen to interact with others. Children's behaviour is ably supported by the childminder who gets to know each child and is able to respond to their individual needs. The childminder ensures daily discussions keep parents informed of their child's day. These generally concentrate on a child's care and welfare needs more than their overall learning and development.

The childminder and children sit together at the same level as they play. Children develop an awareness of number, shape and size. They count the number of eyes on the spider, talk about the small round orange and use words, such as straight to describe how they have cut the paper. Children's language skills are encouraged from an early age so they can explain what they are doing and ask questions. Stories, such as 'Three Little Pigs' encourage reasoning skills as children build houses from bricks and try to blow them down. Creative activities allow children to explore colour, shape and textures. They enjoy making prints of their hands and feet with paint, decorate gingerbread biscuits, collect leaves for a collage and make spiders from card, wobbly eyes and pipe cleaners. Examples of their work are proudly displayed on the wall which makes them feel valued. Outings to toddler groups and the park provide opportunities for children to socialise with others and learn to share as they wait to take their turn with particular equipment.

The childminder gets to know the children as individuals and provides a variety of activities and outings. However, she is not secure in her knowledge of how she can effectively assist children's progress towards the early learning goals. Children's progress is monitored and assessments include written observations and photographs to illustrate their enjoyment. However, planning lacks detail, does not identify children's starting points and does not consistently identify children's next steps of learning. Consequently, the links between planning, assessment and observations are not complete.

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?	Satisfactory
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?	Satisfactory
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:

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:

- take action as specified in the Early Years section of the report. 15/11/2008

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 in the Early Years section of the report. 15/11/2008

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

Since registration there have been no complaints made to Ofsted.

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.