

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY305400
Inspection date	24/11/2008
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 first registered in 2005. She lives with her husband in the Sale area of Trafford. Two children step children aged 14 and 12 years stay on occasions. The family has a dog.

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 and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. When working with an assistant the childminder may care for no more than eight children at any one time. There are currently 11 children on roll, nine of whom are in the early years age group.

Minded children have access to two ground floor playrooms, the kitchen and toilet area. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is a qualified nursery nurse. She attends the local childminder and toddler groups on a regular basis and is a member of the National Childminding Association and the Trafford Childminders Network.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The childminder offers children a good quality provision in a homely and stimulating environment. Her awareness and understanding of the children in her care ensures that their individual needs are well met and their welfare and learning promoted. The childminder's comprehensive knowledge of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) allows her to put effective systems in place for monitoring and evaluating her practice. Key areas for further improvement have been clearly identified and linked to both welfare and learning and development requirements. Positive partnerships have been established with parents and external agencies.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- ensure privacy for all children during changing routines.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder and her assistant show genuine commitment to their professional development by attending training courses, keeping up-to-date with changes and working towards further qualifications in early childhood studies. Through critical reflection on her current practice and the successful completion of the self-evaluation form, she has clearly identified key areas for improvement. Children's safety is ensured through the completion of comprehensive risk assessments on all areas of her home and for when children are taken on outings.

Good quality information is shared with parents regarding the childminder's service and children's care, learning and development. A daily information sheet and discussions at either end of the day ensure that all relevant information is shared. All children's records including, menus, weekly planning, and children's development files are readily available for parents to view. Parents write positively of the care that their children receive. The childminder has a thorough knowledge of each child's stage of development and individual needs. Children's starting points are identified and by regular observation and assessment of each child, she is able to plan an interesting programme that progresses their learning well.

Strong and meaningful links have been established with external agencies, which effectively promote the integration of care and education for each child. All documentation, including a range of detailed and well written policies and procedures successfully promote children's health, safety and welfare and ensure that their individual needs are met. The childminder is committed to providing an inclusive practice to ensure all children can achieve regardless of background. For example, photographs of each child and their families are on display that helps to foster children's self-esteem and confidence. The childminder has secure knowledge of safeguarding issues, with all the required documentation in place.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children thoroughly enjoy their time in the childminder's home. They achieve extremely well because the childminder is highly skilled and uses her exceptional understanding of the Early years Foundation Stage (EYFS) to good effect. Children therefore make very good progress in all areas of learning and development and welfare. High quality planning and organisation ensures that every child is suitably challenged by their learning experiences.

There are robust systems in place to record and monitor children's learning and development. Written observations clearly mark children's progress and are securely linked to the areas of learning. Right from the start, the childminder finds out about children's skills, interests, and needs and builds on this information effectively to help children achieve as much as they can. The childminder is perceptive to children's interests during self-initiated play and uses questions very successfully to challenge children's thinking and language skills.

The children make very good progress because the childminder recognises their uniqueness. Close and caring relationships with the childminder increase children's sense of trust and help them develop a strong sense of self. High quality adult-child interactions are supportive of early communication skills and the childminder echoes children's speech and supplements early speech.

Children's understanding of shape, colour and number and are promoted through everyday situations, such as, counting bricks and selecting their own plates, cups and bibs at mealtimes. Children have many opportunities to explore a variety of sensory, messy, and creative activities.

Children's health and well-being is promoted well by the provision of healthy and nutritious meals and snacks. The childminder has obtained the Trafford healthy eating award, which demonstrates her commitment to providing children with a well balanced diet. Water is freely available and children help themselves throughout the day to their own cup. Their understanding of how to keep themselves safe is well promoted through appropriate discussion and simple explanation. Whilst all areas of the setting are maintained to a good standard, the nappy changing facility does not provide children with sufficient dignity and privacy.

Positive relationships exist between the childminder, children, and parents, allowing children to feel happy and settled in her care. Children show care and consideration for others, for example, they sit together playing with a treasure basket sharing the contents amicably. They are encouraged to be well behaved and to take turns and share as they play. Through all these good experiences and activities, children are developing skills which contribute to their future economic well-being.

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?	1
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
---	-----

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 the last inspection.

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.