

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	322246
Inspection date	22/12/2008
Inspector	Michele Anne Villiers

Type of setting	Childminder
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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 1996. She lives with her husband, two grown-up children and one child aged 14, in a suburb of Liverpool. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time, under the Early Years Register and 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 a total of four children on roll, all of whom are in the early years age range, aged from one year to two years. The childminder walks or transports children in a car to local schools and toddler groups. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Children play in a warm and welcoming family home where they independently access a wide range of toys and resources. The childminder has a good knowledge of the children's needs and creates an inclusive environment. Most safety measures are in place and children are not left alone with anyone who is not vetted. The childminder demonstrates a keen commitment to her ongoing professional development and continuous improvement of the provision, and has started to use self evaluation to identify her strengths and weaknesses.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- ensure all persons aged 16 years or older living on the childminding premises complete an enhanced Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) Disclosure and return to Ofsted
- continue to use the information from observation of the children's progress, with links to their starting points, to inform future plans
- continue to develop the use of self-evaluation to identify areas for improvement.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder is well organised with many written policies and procedures, providing a framework for her practice, which are shared with parents. Most legal documentation is in place. However, the childminder has not completed appropriate documentation on all adults living in the home as soon as they became 16 years of age. The childminder attends training workshops and keeps up-to-date on child protection issues in order to safeguard children. She has a good partnership with parents, sharing information through daily discussion, written

documentation and the children's individual portfolios. Questionnaires are used to obtain parents' views and ideas, although these are not linked to the childminder's self evaluation form for parents to contribute in a meaningful way.

All children progress well towards the early learning goals as the childminder has a good understanding of how children learn through play, providing them with challenging activities and good support. Recommendations from the previous inspection have been met resulting in the childminder providing a wider range of toys reflecting diversity. Appropriate steps are taken to help prevent the spread of infection, and children learn about personal hygiene through daily routines such as hand washing. Good contingency arrangements are in place to cover emergency situations, and suitable documentation is used to record any accidents and the administration of medication. The childminder conducts risk assessments both within the home and on outings, helping to minimise hazards to children. Good safety measures are in place when taking the children out and written procedures are followed should a child become lost. Children learn about road safety and they practise the fire evacuation procedure, helping them become aware of what to do in an emergency. Children benefit from healthy, nutritional food for their growth and development, with fresh fruit each day and homemade meals.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children confidently explore their environment, freely accessing a wide range of toys and resources. The childminder is very attentive to the children's needs and acts on their interests. For example, when toddlers point to books, she sits with them and reads a story, discussing the pictures, using simple and repetitive language. Children form close relationships with the childminder, inviting her to play with them and approaching her for comfort and reassurance. The childminder is very enthusiastic in her approach, motivating the children's learning and making activities exciting and challenging.

Planning is used to provide a flexible routine with a good balance of adult-directed and child-led play. Written activities are key coded using the six areas of learning and the childminder evaluates the activities, ensuring they are appropriate for each child. Children progress well and the childminder uses observation to monitor their development. She has started to record their progress and use the information for future plans, although their starting points are not clearly identified.

During play children demonstrate good concentration, especially when playing with small world people as they manoeuvre them around the toy castle and when completing simple puzzles. Children develop well in their communication, language and literacy skills. They discuss the colour of their shoes and the building blocks, and sing songs such as 'The colours of the rainbow'. Children particularly enjoy looking at books and young children imitate animal sounds, such as 'moo' for the cow. Many opportunities are provided for children to mark-make and practise their early attempts at writing. They enjoy a variety of art and craft activities, exploring colour and texture and making shapes with play-dough, counting how many pieces they have. Number is further incorporated as they sing 'Five little sausages sizzling in the pan' and calculate how many are left when one goes bang.

Children learn about their world, playing with toy mobile phones and cash registers. Outside they examine different plants and the changing seasons and play on wheeled toys and climbing apparatus, helping to foster their balance and coordination. They enjoy physical activities, dancing and moving to music, touching their knees and clapping their hands. The children's imagination is fostered well through a variety of toys and props as they pretend to iron clothes, cook and go shopping with the dolls. Children are well behaved and develop a strong sense of belonging. They help to tidy away and wipe surfaces, and excitedly examine photographs of themselves and each other displayed on the low-level table. The childminder is very calm and consistent and rewards good behaviour in a positive environment.

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?	3

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?	3
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

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.