

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY298577
Inspection date	08/01/2009
Inspector	Carol Ann Dixon

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 2004. She lives in Failsworth, a suburb of Oldham with her partner and their two children aged four and 14 years. The ground floor of the house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The home is accessible by a small step at the front entrance. The family have a pet rabbit which is kept in the garden.

The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register, the compulsory part of the Childcare Register and the voluntary part of the Childcare Register. There are currently two children on roll who are in the early years age group. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and receives support from the local authority. She offers an out of school service.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The childminder meets the needs of the children that she cares for. A strong knowledge of the Early Years Foundation Stage and how children develop and learn, as well as positive interactions with parents, carers and other settings, helps the childminder to ensure children make good progress towards the early learning goals. The childminder reflects on her practice and takes steps to make continuous improvements to the care provided. This helps her to offer excellent and inclusive care to the children that she minds. She creates suitable partnerships with other settings children attend, to support consistent care.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- maintain a record of risk assessments for each type of outing
- continue to develop opportunities for parents to contribute to children's progress records.

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

- request written parental consent to seek emergency medical treatment or advice (Safeguarding and welfare).

22/01/2009

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder evaluates the care that children receive and identifies areas for improvement. For example, the childminder has incorporated the learning and development requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage into her practice after attending training to develop her knowledge and understanding.

Recommendations made at the last inspection have been acted on. The childminder was asked to fit smoke alarms to each level of the house and increase the range of resources which reflect diversity, both of which have been done. She was also asked to develop more opportunities for younger children to explore with their senses and after attending training, there are now many opportunities for them to do this, such as playing with sand and dough. The childminder seeks support from the local authority and liaises with other childcare practitioners to update her knowledge and practice. The majority of the required documentation is in place, however, written parental consent for seeking emergency medical treatment or advice has not been requested.

Parents and carers are well informed of their child's activities through daily discussions. Access to the childminder's policies and procedures ensures they are fully aware of her responsibilities. The childminder maintains individual folders with photographs of the children at play and detailed observations which clearly demonstrate children's progress towards the early learning goals. She effectively uses this information to assess each child's stage of development and to plan activities to further extend their learning. However, opportunities for parents to contribute to these records have not yet been developed.

Children are safeguarded from harm as the childminder has an excellent understanding of the signs and symptoms of child abuse and the procedure to follow should she have any concerns about a child in her care. Parents and carers are made aware of the childminder's role in the protection of children.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children play in a safe and secure environment. They have use of a bright and welcoming playroom where they are able to access toys and resources with ease, enabling them to make choices about what they play with. The childminder undertakes thorough risk assessments and all necessary steps are taken to minimise risks to children on the premises or on outings. However, written records of risk assessments for some outings are incomplete. Fire drills are practised regularly and a fire escape plan details how the house will be exited in an emergency. The childminder has a high regard to children's safety when playing in the garden and when away from the home. For example, children routinely learn about road safety and younger children wear wrist straps as they walk to and from school. The childminder promotes good hygiene as she ensures children wash their hands at appropriate times to minimise the risk of cross infection. Children mainly eat food that is provided by the parents and the childminder encourages them to choose from a range of healthy snacks, such as a variety of fresh fruit or toast. They have access to a drink whenever they are thirsty which encourages their independence.

The childminder reinforces children's learning in a fun way by introducing concepts of number, shape and size into their play. Children concentrate intently on self-chosen activities. They persevere at completing puzzles and are keen to discuss their favourite books with the childminder. The children use language well from an early age to explain what they are doing and to ask questions. They enjoy being

imaginative as they play with dressing up clothes. Children also enjoy looking at the many photographs of themselves engaged in various activities and imitate the childminder by pretending to take pictures themselves using a camera. They enjoy role play opportunities as they pretend to make meals using the kitchen utensils and play food. This means young children make connections and represent real life experiences through their play. Children have regular opportunities to enjoy outdoor activities and regular visits to the park enable them to develop their physical skills and enjoy healthy exercise.

Children enjoy regular outings in the local community and are actively involved in many toddler groups where they begin to socialise with other children and learn about the wider world. The childminder has a positive attitude towards diversity and all children are treated with respect. They enjoy a wide range of interesting books and activities to develop their awareness of differences. The childminder speaks positively to the children offering praise and encouragement. Their social skills are encouraged through the use of good manners and clear boundaries for behaviour such as being encouraged to share and be kind to each other.

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

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.