

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY383449
Inspection date	10/02/2009
Inspector	Sue Partington
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 has been registered since 2008. She lives with her husband and grown-up child in the Leyland area of Preston, Lancashire. Children are accommodated in the conservatory, lounge and dining area on the ground floor with access to an enclosed outdoor area.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children. She minds with a co-childminder and when working together they may care for a maximum of six children, all of whom may be in the early years age range. They are currently caring for six children in this age group. They also offer care for children aged over five years to 11 years. This provision is registered by Ofsted on the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. The childminder offers care from 07.30 to 16.30, Monday to Friday all year round.

Both childminders have equal responsibility for the childminding practice.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is inadequate. The childminder and her co-worker provide a happy, welcoming environment in which children make satisfactory progress. Although, as yet systems are not in place to identify children's next steps towards the early learning goals. Suitable links with parents ensure that the individual care needs of all children are met, however, weaknesses in the childminder's ability to safeguard children mean that overall children's welfare is not sufficiently promoted. Both the childminder and her co-childminder are in the early stages of beginning to evaluate their practice, although as yet this is not contributing to identifying areas for further development in order to continually improve their provision.

Overall, the early years provision requires significant improvement. The registered person is given a Notice to Improve that sets out actions to be carried out.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

To comply with the requirements of the EYFS the registered person must take the following action by the specified date:

- develop a safeguarding children policy in line with the Local Safeguarding Children Board which includes the procedure to be followed in the event of an allegation being made against the childminder(Safeguarding and promoting children's welfare) 24/02/2009
- extend risk assessments to identify aspects of the environment that need to be checked on a regular basis, in particular the radiator pipes (Suitable premises, environment and equipment) 24/02/2009

To improve the early years provision the registered person should:

- develop the systems for observation and assessment in order to plan for children's next steps across all six areas of learning, to ensure they achieve as much as they can in relation to their starting points and capabilities.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

Self-evaluation is developing satisfactorily. The childminder and her co-childminder are in the early stages of evaluating their practice. They know what they do well and aim to provide a good quality service where children are happy and well cared for. They can identify some required areas for improvement, however, they have not checked their practices sufficiently to ensure that they identify gaps in their provision. This has led to weaknesses in safeguarding children's welfare. Overall, the childminder's capacity to improve is poor because despite having attended some recent training she is unable to fully protect children. She is not aware of local procedures to follow or of what to do if she is concerned about child protection issues. Additionally, she is not aware of what to do if an allegation is made about herself or her co-childminder. The childminder has a sufficient awareness of keeping children safe within her home and together both childminders have produced a hazard checklist to help them reduce risk to children. However, this current system does not allow them to review and continually evaluate changing risks. For example, radiator pipes are burning hot to touch in response to severe weather conditions and they are within reach of children. Consequently, children are not fully safeguarded. Some suitable procedures are in place to help promote children's welfare, for example, the childminder holds a current first aid certificate and sufficiently maintains the required records, such as accidents and medication.

An inclusive and welcoming service is provided. Partnerships with parents are developing. Effective settling in arrangements mean that the childminder knows children well and is able to meet their individual care needs. Parents are provided with sufficient information so that they know the basics of how the setting operates. Daily discussions enable information about children's care and some learning to be shared, although parents are not yet involved in planning for children's progress. Parents' views about the provision are sought which demonstrate parents are satisfied with their children's care and are pleased with the achievements they are making.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Relationships are relaxed and children are happy in the child centred environment. Space is used well. The conservatory provides stimulation through children's pictures and posters, there is ample space in which to play and explore, and the quiet parts of the house are used to enable children to sleep without disturbance. Children develop some independence as they self-select toys from toy boxes and they are able to follow through their own ideas, for example, one child looks for

and finds a microphone to sing along with. Children are learning to show care and concern for each other and older children willingly share toys with the babies. Children are helped to be healthy by accessing the ground floor bathroom for hand-washing and by accessing their own cups for a drink when they are thirsty. They are learning about staying safe when they are reminded about not climbing on furniture, although their safety is compromised because of the hazards they are exposed to. All children are valued in the childminder's care and are helped to develop a sense of belonging. Some basic resources are available which introduce the wider world.

Children settle well in the childminder's care because of her calm, nurturing approach. She is sensitive to their unique needs and makes sure, for example, that each child has their own comfort blanket ready for sleep-time. She recognises each child's individual interests and makes sure she responds to these to help children enjoy and achieve. For example, she knows that the baby loves music and she provides him with a toy piano to play. He knows how to make the sound and delights in the experience. The childminder knows the children very well. She is quick to recognise and is sensitive to their care needs when they are unwell and she adopts clear hygiene practices to make sure children's health is protected.

The childminder has a sufficient awareness of how children learn to enable them to make steady progress through the appropriate play opportunities available. Because she knows children so well, she instinctively provides suitable opportunities for their learning. However, most activities are child initiated and the childminder is not making the most of what she knows about each child to plan for their continual progress across all areas of learning. The childminder extends children's experiences by taking them out into the community. Their mobility is encouraged when she puts toys just out of children's reach to motivate and encourage them to move towards them. She supports them well when attempting to use the furniture to pull themselves up to standing. Children are developing a sense of security and self-esteem because the childminder continually praises them and offers lots of hugs and cuddles when they become fractious or upset. Children clearly enjoy their time with the childminder and are very happy and content with her interaction and attention.

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?	4
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	3
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	4

Leadership and management

How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?	4
How effective is the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement?	3
How well does the setting work in partnership with parents and others?	3
How well are children safeguarded?	4

Quality and standards

How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?	3
How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?	4
How well are children helped to stay safe?	4
How well are children helped to be healthy?	3
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	3
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	3
How well are children helped develop skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being?	3

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:

- implement a written statement of procedures to be followed for the protection of children (CR2.1) 24/02/2009
- implement a written statement of procedures to be followed in relation to complaints. (CR7.1) 24/02/2009

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:

- implement a written statement of procedures to be followed for the protection of children (CR2.1) 24/02/2009
- implement a written statement of procedures to be followed in relation to complaints. (CR7.1) 24/02/2009

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.