

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	209746
Inspection date	12/05/2009
Inspector	Patricia Webb
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 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 1992. She lives with her husband and two adult sons in Stafford. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding together with the bathroom and two bedrooms on the first floor. The premises are accessed via a level drive and a step up inside the hall. There is a fully enclosed rear garden which is accessed by way of a step down to a paved patio and further steps down to a grassed lawn.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children under eight years at any one time, of whom no more than three may be in the early years age range. There are currently three children on roll in this age group. Care is also offered for children aged over five years. The provision is registered by Ofsted on the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association (NCMA).

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall, the quality of the provision is inadequate. Whilst the childminder offers a warm and welcoming environment for children, she has not taken adequate steps to implement the Early Years Foundation Stage effectively. Consequently, some aspects of children's welfare, learning and development are compromised as some legal requirements are not met. The childminder has not yet sought to develop a process for the evaluation of her practice thereby resulting in gaps in the 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 knowledge and understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage in planning and organising systems to ensure that every child receives an enjoyable and challenging learning and development experience that is tailored to their individual needs (Organisation) 03/07/2009
- ensure that children are safeguarded by implementing an effective safeguarding policy and increasing knowledge and understanding of the procedures in line with Local Safeguarding Children Board guidelines (Safeguarding and welfare) 03/06/2009
- ensure children are safe by conducting a risk assessment on all outings (Safeguarding and 03/06/2009

- promoting children's welfare)
- develop knowledge and understanding of inclusive practice, ensuring that every child is included and not disadvantaged because of ethnicity, culture or religion, home language, family background, learning difficulties or disabilities, gender or ability (Organisation) 03/07/2009
- conduct risk assessments to identify and minimise hazards to children indoors and outside and ensure that these are reviewed regularly noting when and by whom they have been checked (Suitable premises, environment and equipment) 03/06/2009
- provide evidence of a current first aid qualification (Suitable people) 03/06/2009
- undertake sensitive observation assessments in order to plan to meet young children's individual needs (Organisation) 03/07/2009

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder is experienced and offers a welcoming and homely environment where children settle and are at ease. However, the childminder has not taken full account of changes to the legal framework she is required to operate under and therefore, some aspects of the service are not met effectively. The gaps in the provision are a result of the childminder's limited understanding of the merits of evaluating and assessing her practice in order to improve outcomes for children. The childminder is unable to provide evidence of a current first aid certificate and risk assessments are not carried out effectively to identify and minimise hazards to children. This leaves children at risk as they currently have to negotiate building materials in the front garden and some hazards such as a razor and a spray bottle of glass cleaning chemical are left within their reach. There are no risk assessments conducted for outings or trips, although the childminder does obtain the necessary parental consents for these and ensures that children are suitably restrained when transported in her car.

The childminder has a basic understanding of child protection issues, although there is no policy and her approach does not take account of changes to the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures. This hinders how parents can be assured of swift and appropriate action being taken in such circumstances. The childminder discusses individual details with parents at the time of the placements commencing and whilst she promotes a sense of caring and sharing she is not sufficiently aware of delivering a wholly inclusive service that takes account of valuing and celebrating diversity. Children have access to some resources depicting positive images of the society they live in but they do not fully expand their knowledge or understanding of differences in abilities, differing languages or ways of life.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Whilst they learn to share, take turns and develop positive relationships with their peers and the childminder, the lack of planning and assessment means that some children are not always sufficiently challenged or extended. They develop their independence as they make choices about their play from the accessible boxes rotated by the childminder who is mindful of their ages and interests. Favourite activities include role play and music making as they use the rainmakers to simulate the sound of the rain. They then develop their imagination as they turn them into rollers and two children devise a game between them of racing the rainmakers across the floor. The childminder offers praise and shows her pleasure at their co-operative play joining in with their success. Positive attention is paid to promoting some aspects of children's self-esteem as, for example, great care is taken to ensure that one child's special toy is ready and waiting for him in the window on his arrival back from the local nursery.

They access books and stories easily, seeking out favourite tales and settling in the comfy settee to enjoy the experience. The childminder is starting to develop children's critical thinking skills as she feigns a lack of knowledge about colours, seeking the answer from the child as she knows she can recognise these easily. Opportunities to extend and challenge a child in such activities are not always capitalised on. Time is given on arrival from school to relax and wind down as the childminder knows that they need time to develop their confidence with visitors in the home.

Children are developing an awareness of following a healthy lifestyle. They enjoy daily opportunities for outdoor activity both on and off the premises and much pleasure is had when a game of bat and ball becomes a tennis match. They are developing an awareness of their own safety as the childminder endeavours to encourage them to tidy away their toys and follow road safety guidelines. Their overall safety is hindered by the lack of risk assessments to identify and minimise hazards fully.

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?	4
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?	4
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?	4
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?	4
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	3
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	4
How well are children helped develop skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being?	3

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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:

- maintain and implement a written statement of procedures to be followed for the protection of children, intended to safeguard the children being cared for from abuse or neglect (Arrangements for Safeguarding children) 03/06/2009
- undertake a risk assessment of the premises and equipment which is conducted at least once in each calendar year or immediately, where the need for an assessment arises, in order to identify and minimise risks (Suitability and safety of premises and equipment) 03/06/2009

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:

- take action as specified in the early years section of the report (Arrangements for safeguarding children) 03/06/2009
- undertake a risk assessment of the premises and equipment which is conducted at least once in each calendar year or immediately, where the need for an assessment arises, in order to identify and minimise risks (Suitability and safety of premises and equipment) 03/06/2009