

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	309038
Inspection date	24/08/2009
Inspector	Ferroza Saiyed
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 was registered in 2000. She lives with her husband in a bungalow, in Blackpool. The whole of the house is used for childminding, apart from the front bedroom. There is a rear garden for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register, and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. She is registered to care for a maximum of six children aged under eight years old, and currently has two children under the age of five years old on roll. She also cares for school age children. The childminder cares for children on week days from 7am to 5.30pm for 48 weeks of the year. She holds a current paediatric first aid certificate. The childminder receives support from the local authority.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall, the quality of the provision is inadequate. The childminder does not have effective procedures in place to promote children's welfare, and therefore has breached a couple of the specific legal requirements. The childminder has a basic understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and as such, the children are making satisfactory progress in their learning and development. She has addressed the actions raised at the previous inspection, and is beginning to make use of the self-evaluation form to maintain continuous improvement. She provides a suitably welcoming environment for all children and their families, and has appropriate procedures in place to ensure she has a sufficient understanding of children's individual welfare needs.

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:

- make sure written records of all medicines administered to children are kept and inform parents (Safeguarding and welfare) 07/09/2009
- carry out a full risk assessment for each specific outing, clearly stating when it was carried out, by whom, date of review and any action taken (Safeguarding and welfare). 07/09/2009

To improve the early years provision the registered person should:

- develop understanding of the EYFS in order to undertake observational assessment and plan and provide experiences which are appropriate to each child's stage of development

- promote effective communications between settings to ensure that children's needs are met and there is continuity in their learning and provide opportunity for parents to be involved in the ongoing observation and assessment
- further develop children's knowledge and understanding of the world by increasing resources and activities to support their information communication and technology skills and help them to learn about different cultures and diversity.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

Children are suitably safeguarded as the childminder has attended relevant training, and has a clear understanding of her role in protecting children. This is supported by a written policy and appropriate referral procedures. Most required documentation and suitable procedures are in place, such as, the risk assessments and a daily check is carried out of all areas to be accessed by the children. However, risk assessments for each type of outing have not been completed, and the record of medication administered to children is not kept. These are both breach of the legal requirement.

Partnerships with parents are sufficient to promote children's care. The sharing of information with parents is achieved through daily discussions, so they know what their children have been doing and by taking home creative work. Each child has a folder containing photographs, examples of work and observations. However, she has not developed procedures to fully enable parents to add to their children's learning and development. The childminder understands the importance of working closely with other organisations to promote continuity of care and learning for all children; but these are not fully be established.

The childminder implements acceptable self-evaluation systems in order to review the service she provides. She works closely with her local childminding network and attends regular training to develop her practice. She has used some of the recommendations raised at the previous inspection to improve outcomes for children, for example, she has increased her understanding of the safeguarding procedures and has developed the role play resources to further enhance children's imaginative play.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Space at the childminder's home is suitably arranged so that children can move around freely, and choose from an appropriate range of toys and resources and change activities as they laugh and talk about what they are doing. This helps to develop children's independence and decision-making skills. The childminder supports children well in their play and promotes their learning as she encourages them to count, use mathematical language in their play and to identify shapes. Children benefit from a suitable range of activities to help promote their creative development. For example, they enjoy dressing up in various costumes and pretend to go to a wedding. The childminder interacts well with the children, she

shows young children how to hold pencils and paint brush to basic mark making. The children benefit from a balanced range of indoor and outdoor activities which cover most areas of learning. They have some opportunities to learn about the world around them as they go for walks, to the zoo and activity centres, however, resources and activities to further support children's knowledge and understanding of the world, including information communication technology and diversity, are limited.

The childminder has begun to familiarise herself with the EYFS, she is not fully confident at using it to effectively to promote children's learning and development in all areas of their learning. The childminder recognises the importance of play, and is beginning to make observations of the children's learning. However, she is not using these effectively to record children's learning, or to show children's individual progression towards the early learning goals.

Children are appropriately safeguarded at the childminder's home as she has a suitable range of safety equipment and procedures in place. For example, by practising regular fire drills and discussing road safety to help children to begin to learn about keeping themselves safe. The childminder adequately promotes children's health, for example, they access the garden, go for regular walks to the park and visit activity centres. She helps to raise children's awareness of adopting suitable hygiene practices, by ensuring that they wash hands before meals and after using the toilet. Children are provided with a suitable range of meals and fresh fruit to promote their health. The childminder has a suitable understanding of behaviour management techniques, and gives regular praise and encouragement to promote positive behaviour.

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.	3

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?	3
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?	4

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:

- take action as specified in the early years section of the report (CR8) 07/09/2009

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 above (CR8) 07/09/2009