

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	312209
Inspection date	08/09/2009
Inspector	Kay Margaret Armstrong
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 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.

Please see our website for more information about each childcare provider. We publish inspection reports, conditions of registration and details of complaints we receive where we or the provider take action to meet the requirements of registration.

Description of the childminding

The childminder has been registered since 1988. She lives with her husband, two young adults and a 10 year old child. The childminder's uncle also lives with the family. The family live in the Hyde area of Tameside, close to shops, parks and the library. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding. The side garden is available for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register to provide care for a maximum of six children at any one time, three of whom may be in the early years age range. There are currently three children on roll in this age group, all attend on a part-time basis. The childminder also makes provision for older children, as she is registered on both the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register.

The childminder gains support from the local authority.

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is satisfactory.

Children make steady progress in their learning and development, because they are provided with a suitable range of activities. The childminder establishes positive relationships with children and cares for them in a welcoming environment. Children's welfare needs are met well as the childminder establishes positive links with parents and shares information appropriately with them. This ensures continuity of care for the children. The childminder has recently begun to reflect on the service she provides and demonstrates a positive capacity for continuous improvement.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- conduct a risk assessment and review it regularly, at least once a year or more frequently where the need arises for both the premises and all outings (Suitable premises, environment and equipment).
- 30/09/2009

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

- promote positive attitudes to diversity through activities that encourage children to talk about similarities and differences and the reasons for these. Wherever possible and practical help children to learn to value aspects of their own and other peoples' lives
- make systematic observations and assessments of each child's achievements

and interests, match them to the expectations of the early learning goals, and use them to identify learning priorities and learning experiences which maximise each child's progress.

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder demonstrates a clear understanding of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board procedures. This ensures she can respond appropriately if child protection concerns arise. There are adequate procedures in place to safeguard children, as the childminder offers good supervision and ensures the environment and resources are safe and suitable by regularly checking them. Emergency evacuation plans are clear and have been practised with the children. This fosters their understanding of what to do in the event of a fire. The childminder teaches children road awareness as they walk to and from school and visit the park. She maintains necessary first aid training and deals with accidents and illness appropriately, keeping required records. However, risk assessments have not been undertaken for the premises or for outings; this is a breach in the welfare requirements.

The conservatory is used as a play room for the children and the childminder has organised this area well to ensure children are able to play safely and in comfort. Children are able to make choices in their play and learning as a good range of suitable toys, books and resources are easily accessible to them. Outdoor play is provided daily either in the garden or by visits to the local park. Good relationships with parents have been established, and information is shared daily by effective use of individual dairies and verbal communication. This ensures children's welfare needs are met. The childminder has established tentative links with other providers of the Early Years Foundation Stage that children she cares for attend. As yet they have not developed joint plans to consistently promote and complement individual children's progress. The childminder meets children's individual needs well, adapting activities to ensure they challenge children appropriately. However, she has limited understanding of the issues surrounding equality and diversity, which impacts on some of the activities provided for the children.

The childminder has recently begun to review the service she provides, she correctly identifies her strengths as engaging and supporting children in their play and learning. She shows a positive capacity to develop her provision by being proactive in seeking further training courses, and a willingness to work with the development workers from the local authority. She has also acted positively upon the recommendations raised at the last inspection which benefit the children in her care.

The quality and standards of the early years provision and outcomes for children

Children make sound progress in their learning and development, because the childminder provides a range of interesting activities which keep children

interested. For example, children develop their imagination, problem solving, reasoning and numeracy skills and language and communication skills as they play with the farm animals. They sort, match and count the animals. Play imaginative games with them, pretending they are in races or give them rides in the trailer and puzzle out how to fit them into small spaces. Children are sufficiently challenged in their learning as the childminder asks open ended questions, which enhances their communication and challenges them to think. Children demonstrate a willingness to try new things such as complex jigsaws with support from the childminder. They learn about simple technology as they play with battery operated toys and competently switch them on to 'make it work'. Consequently, children are beginning to develop skills for the future. Children are beginning to learn about the world in which they live and differences, as they access some resources which reflect positive images of our diverse society.

Children make steady progress towards the early learning goals in relation to their capabilities as the childminder knows them extremely well and she provides activities which build on their interests. This promotes a personalised approach in learning for all children. The childminder is aware of the six areas of learning. She uses a basic format for logging what activities children have participated in during the day, but she does not make observations and assessments of each child's achievements, or match them to the expectations of the early learning goals. This impacts on the planning for children's progress as the next steps in their development is not prioritised.

Children are happy, relaxed and settled in the childminders care and home. They enjoy a warm and affectionate relationship with the childminder, and clamber on to her knee for a cuddle and reassurance. She interacts well with them, responding positively to their requests and questions which ensure they feel valued. Children learn about a healthy lifestyle, they have lots of opportunity to be active and develop good coordination skills as they use large equipment in the garden or at the park. The childminder liaises closely with parents in order to meet children's individual dietary requirements. They are provide with nutritious meals and snacks with fresh fruit and vegetables. Drinks are readily available and children are able to keep themselves hydrated. The childminder sensitively reinforces effective personal hygiene routines and promotes children's personal independence.

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

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

How well does the setting meet the needs of the children in the Early Years Foundation Stage?	3
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement	3

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

How effectively is the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?	3
The effectiveness of leadership and management in embedding ambition and driving improvement	3
The effectiveness with which the setting deploys resources	2
The effectiveness with which the setting promotes equality and diversity	3
The effectiveness of safeguarding	3
The effectiveness of the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement	3
The effectiveness of partnerships	3
The effectiveness of the setting's engagement with parents and carers	2

The quality of the provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage

The quality of the provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage	3
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Outcomes for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage

Outcomes for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage	2
The extent to which children achieve and enjoy their learning	2
The extent to which children feel safe	2
The extent to which children adopt healthy lifestyles	2
The extent to which children make a positive contribution	3
The extent to which children develop skills for the future	2

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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:

- keep 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 which includes the procedure to be followed if allegations are made against the provider (Safeguarding and promoting children's welfare)(also applies to the Voluntary Childcare Register) 30/09/2009

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:

- make available to parents a written statement that provides details of the procedure to be followed if they have a complaint (Safeguarding and promoting children's welfare)(also applies to the Compulsory Childcare Register). 30/09/2009