

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	500352
Inspection date	16/07/2009
Inspector	Anne Drinkwater
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 in the Woodhouse Park area of Manchester with her husband and two daughters, one of whom is her assistant. The playroom is used for childminding with bathroom facilities on the first floor. As the gardens are not registered the childminder uses local park facilities for outdoor play. The family have a cat. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children under eight years at any one time, of whom no more than three may be in the early year's age range. When working with an assistant she may care for a maximum of six children under eight years at any one time, of whom no more than four may be in the early year's age range. She also offers care to children aged over five years to 11 years. She currently has 18 children on roll attending on part time placements, five of which are in the Early Years age range. This provision is registered by Ofsted on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the provision is inadequate. The childminder has not fully complied with the learning and development and welfare requirements within the EYFS.

Consequently, this has a significant impact on children's care and learning and parental involvement. She is welcoming to the children and their families and provides a friendly and comfortable environment. Information regarding children's care requirements and preferences are obtained to ensure her practice is fully inclusive. The childminder has no procedures in place to look at the setting's strengths and weaknesses in order to maintain continuous improvement.

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:

- devise a planning, observation and assessment system to provide children with sufficient challenge encompassing all areas of learning and development (Organisation) 31/07/2009
- develop systems for gaining knowledge of children's starting points and to involve parents in their children's learning and make links with other providers of Early Years Foundation Stage to ensure continuity and consistency of learning needs (Organisation) 31/07/2009
- make available to parents a written statement that provides details of the procedure to be followed if they 31/07/2009

have a complaint, which includes the details for contacting Ofsted and an explanation that parents can make a complaint to Ofsted should they wish (Safeguarding and promoting children's welfare)(also applies to both parts of the registers)

- conduct a risk assessment for the home environment and each type of outing and maintain a record of these clearly stating when it was carried out, by whom, date of review and any action taken following a review or incident (Suitable premises, environment and equipment) (also applies to the compulsory part of the Childcare Register)
- ensure that at least one person has a current paediatric first aid certificate and is present at all times when minded children are present (Safeguarding and promoting children's welfare) (also applies to the compulsory part of the Childcare Register).

31/07/2009

30/09/2009

To improve the early years provision the registered person should:

- develop systems for identifying strengths and priorities for development that will improve the quality of the provision for children and consider ways to seek parents and children's views in order for them to contribute to the self-evaluation.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder's knowledge of the learning and development and welfare requirements within the EYFS is insecure. As a result, children's learning is restricted and their welfare needs are not fully met. She has a sound knowledge of child protection procedures and understands her responsibilities in protecting children from harm and in addition toys and resources are regularly checked to ensure that they are in a suitable condition and some safety measures have been put in place around the home. For example, stair gates and socket covers. However, a risk assessment has not been conducted of the premises, outings and anything a child may come into contact with and parents are not provided with a written statement that provides details of the procedure to be followed if they have a complaint. In addition she does not hold a valid first aid certificate. As a result, children's safety is compromised.

Children are helped to settle through support and a gradual introduction period which is agreed with their parents. The childminder clearly enjoys caring for the children and they go to her for cuddles and reassurance. She provides a warm, homely environment and is friendly and very supportive with parents, for example, she works unsociable hours and in addition will provide out of hours baby sitting services in the child's own home. She informs parents verbally each day about their child's day and how settled they have been. She does not however, fully ascertain children's starting points or plan, observe or make assessments of the

children's learning. As a result, children's next steps in their learning are not identified and inclusion is weak. There is limited capacity for continuous improvement because the childminder does not fully understand reflective practice and self-evaluation. Therefore, no strengths and weaknesses within the provision have been identified. That said she has addressed all the recommendations made at her last inspection.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children are happy in the childminder's home and have access to a range of toys and activities appropriate to their age. They move freely around the playroom and the childminder joins in with the children's spontaneous play. The childminder has not yet devised planning to incorporate the six areas of learning and there are no arrangements in place for observing and assessing children's achievements. In addition she has not made links with the other providers of the EYFS the children attend. Consequently, she does not build on what they know and the next steps in their learning are not clearly identified.

The childminder has a clear understanding of children's routines with regard to their eating and sleeping and responds to younger children's demands and on-going daily needs. For instance, preparing them for sleep when they are tired and offering drinks and snacks when they are thirsty and hungry. She has a good rapport with the children and frequently gives praise, hugs and cuddles. They enjoy building and constructing with blocks, younger children explore programmable toys, daily opportunities for fresh air and physical play are enjoyed as they explore their surrounding areas, and a particular favourite is the country park. She has an abundance of photographs she shares with parents showing their children's enjoyment when baking cakes, participating in the egg and spoon race, making puppets and having fun with balloons, regular trips out into the community include shopping at the wholesalers and trips to theme parks and the sea side. Children are beginning to learn about valuing each other and the childminder ensures that toys and activities are suitable to all. They have CD's and books that reflect positive images of people in society. These resources are generally used to promote positive attitudes in children to help them understand about respecting all people in society.

Children's health is suitability promoted and hygiene procedures are in place to prevent the spread of infection, for instance children use paper towels for hand drying. Children enjoy a range of healthy snacks and cooked meals and drinks are readily available to ensure that they do not become thirsty. Accident and medication records are well maintained and the first aid box is appropriately stocked.

Older children are learning about rules that keep them safe. For example, after children had witnessed a road accident the childminder initiated a visit from the road safety officers, this along with activity sheets gave them the knowledge required to keep them safe, and as a consequence of this learning one child received a gold award in a road safety exercise carried out by his school. Age-appropriate boundaries and suitable opportunities to share and take turns with

popular toys encourage good behaviour. Independence is promoted from an early age as children hang up their coats and store their shoe bags on their name pegs. The childminder offers gentle encouragement that promotes positive behaviour. This practice raises children's self-esteem.

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?	4
How well does the setting work in partnership with parents and others?	4
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?	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 CR5 31/07/2009
- take action as specified in the early years section of the report CR7 31/07/2009
- take action as specified in the early years section of the report CR2. 31/07/2009

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 CR7 31/07/2009
- take action as specified in the early years section of the report CR5. 31/07/2009