

## Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique reference number</b>	EY221894
<b>Inspection date</b>	03/08/2009
<b>Inspector</b>	Susan Marriott
<b>Type of setting</b>	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 2002. She lives with her partner and three children aged 21 years, 15 years and 11 years. The family live in a three-storey house close to central Milton Keynes, and within walking distance of schools, pre-school and local parks. The ground and first floors are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outdoor play. 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 years age range. She is currently minding three children in this age group. She also offers care to children aged over five years to 12 years. This provision is registered by Ofsted on the Early Years Register and both the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. The childminder walks to the local school to collect children and takes them to the local park. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

## Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall, the provision is inadequate because the childminder does not have any knowledge or understanding of the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). She promotes some aspects of children's welfare with success, ensuring that they are generally secure and happy, but required risk assessment is not in place and systems to safeguard children are weak. Children are well-engaged in play-based activities in an appropriately inclusive manner, although the childminder has not implemented the learning and development requirements. There is a suitable working partnership with parents which ensures they are kept suitably informed of most issues relating to their child's care and learning. The childminder does not yet use any form of self-evaluation to identify key strengths and areas for development.

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:

- conduct a risk assessment of the indoor and outdoor environment and review this regularly, identifying aspects of the environment that need to be checked and maintain a record of these and when and by whom they have been checked (Suitable premises, environment and equipment) 31/08/2009
- devise and implement an effective safeguarding children policy and procedure and clearly define this for parents (Safeguarding and promoting children's welfare) (also refers to the compulsory and voluntary 31/08/2009

- parts of the Childcare Register)
- gain knowledge and understanding of the Learning and Development requirements in order to plan and provide a challenging and enjoyable experience for children in a way which reflects their individual needs and interests (Organisation)

31/08/2009

## **The leadership and management of the early years provision**

Basic written records and verbal policies and procedures underpin the generally safe management of this warm, friendly and welcoming childminding setting. However, the individual needs of children are not met because the childminder is not implementing the framework for the EYFS. The childminder is not observing and assessing children's progress in line with requirements. Children are not fully safeguarded because the childminder does not have sufficient knowledge of procedures to follow in the event of concerns arising and does not share these with parents and carers. There is no written statement about safeguarding procedures to meet the requirements of both parts of the Childcare Register.

Preventative action is taken to address some identified hazards and minimise the risk to children. For example, a knife block has been removed from children's reach. However, the childminder does not conduct a full risk assessment to meet requirements and some potential hazards remain unidentified. For example, knives are now kept in an insecure kitchen drawer, with the childminder relying on her house rules to ensure that children stay safe. The childminder has not yet reviewed her practice in order to identify strengths and weaknesses in order to secure continuous improvement.

Children can readily access toys and equipment and this ensures that they develop personal independence and the ability to make choices and decisions. The childminder devotes her time and attention to the children during minding hours, effectively promoting incidental learning through interactive play. Effective links with the parents and carers enable the childminder to tailor activities to the individual children in her care. For example, the childminder displays information for parents on a noticeboard in her kitchen and ensures that she makes time for daily conversations with parents upon delivery and collection of children.

## **The quality and standards of the early years provision**

Children are happy in the childminder's care and enjoy an appropriate range of indoor and outdoor play activities provided by the childminder. During the inspection, the childminder engaged with children completing a selection of jigsaw puzzles. The childminder effectively supports children's communication, language and literacy skills, extending children's vocabulary as she supplies unknown names for some of the creatures depicted on the puzzle trays. Together, children and childminder discuss the potential for different insects and animals biting, stinging and eating humans. The childminder flexibly plans her week to include

opportunities for children to enjoy daily indoor play and outdoor exercise, balancing time spent in the home and time spent at Linford Woods, Willen Park, the Shopping Centre and various other city centre attractions, such as the 'Indoor Beach' at Middleton Hall.

The childminder intuitively covers the six areas of learning within her activities, ensuring that children spend some time each day in the fresh air and learn to persevere and concentrate through puzzles and books. They are beginning to extend their vocabulary and learn about early numbers, shapes and colours. However, the childminder does not link her activities to the learning and development requirements and does not build the learning goals into her daily routine. This has a negative impact on children as activities are not generally based upon the children's interests and abilities and do not always underpin their developmental progress.

Suitable documentation is maintained relating to accidents, medication and incidents and the childminder promotes suitable systems to prevent the spread of cross-infection. Effective procedures are in place, protecting the children's health and well-being. Sufficient steps are taken to prevent cross infection and procedures include dealing with sick children. The childminder has recently renewed her first aid qualification to enable her to meet the needs of children in a medical emergency. Children's behaviour is very well-managed as the childminder sets clear boundaries and consistent expectations. For example, children are reminded to carefully place unwanted jigsaw pieces into the bin in preference to throwing them. Clear, effective, strategies ensure their social, physical and economic well-being are appropriately met.

## 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

<b>How effective is the provision in meeting the needs of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage?</b>	4
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	3
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	4

### Leadership and management

<b>How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?</b>	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

<b>How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?</b>	4
<b>How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?</b>	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?	4
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](http://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:

- undertake a risk assessment of the premises and equipment : at least once in each calendar year and immediately where the need arises (Suitability and Safety of the Premises and Equipment: also applies to the voluntary part of the Childcare Register) 31/08/2009
- take action as specified in the Early Years section of the report (Arrangements for Safeguarding Children) 31/08/2009

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 compulsory part of the Childcare Register section of the report (Suitability and Safety of Premises and Equipment). 31/08/2009
- take action as specified in the Early Years section of the report (Arrangements for Safeguarding Children) 31/08/2009