

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	209875
Inspection date	07/12/2009
Inspector	Jasvinder Kaur
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 was registered in 1993. She lives with her husband and one adult daughter in Rugeley, Staffordshire. The whole of the ground floor, the upstairs bathroom and one bedroom are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The family has a dog as a pet.

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. She is currently minding two children in this age group. She also offers care to children aged over five years. This provision is registered by Ofsted on the Early Years Register and compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. The childminder takes and collects children from the local school and nursery.

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is inadequate.

Children's welfare is not adequately fostered, as insufficient attention is given to their safety and well-being. The childminder has little knowledge of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and consequently has failed to meet a number of legal requirements. This has a considerable impact on the children's learning and development. The childminder has not developed sufficiently robust systems to protect children adequately or to monitor and evaluate the quality of their welfare.

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:

- ensure that a current paediatric first aid certificate is held which is approved by the local authority and consistent with the guidance set out in the Practice Guidance for the Early Years Foundation Stage (Safeguarding and promoting children's welfare) (also applies to the Compulsory and Voluntary parts of the Childcare Register) 21/12/2009
- obtain an enhanced Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) Disclosure in respect of every person aged 16 or over (Suitable people) (also applies to the Childcare and Voluntary parts of the Register) 21/12/2009
- conduct a formal risk assessment to identify and minimise hazards to children on the premises (Suitable premises, environment and equipment) (also applies 21/12/2009

to the Compulsory and Voluntary parts of the Childcare Register).

To improve the early years provision the registered person should:

- develop further observation and assessment of children to identify their achievements clearly in order to plan next steps in early learning goals.

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

There are inappropriate arrangements in place to safeguard children. For example, not all persons over the age of 16 and living on the premises have had a Criminal Records Bureau check. The childminder has not maintained a current first aid certificate. As a result, children's welfare and safety are not promoted.

Children are generally protected from harm or neglect as the childminder has acceptable understanding of the signs and symptoms of abuse and Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures. Although adequate risk assessment is carried out for outings, a formal assessment has not been carried out for the premises to fully secure children's safety. Children are, however, encouraged to adopt safe and responsible habits through regular input from the childminder during play and daily routines. They are protected from the spread of infection, because there is a suitable procedure in place to exclude those with infectious illnesses. The childminder has shown some capacity to make improvements. Recent examples are that she has devised most policies and procedures and has updated children's records in line with the EYFS requirements. She has improved the security of the premises and the safety of the front garden.

The childminder places sufficient emphasis on ensuring practice is inclusive for all families. A suitable selection and organisation of resources provides children with free choice to encourage their independence. Children develop their knowledge and understanding of the wider world through an appropriate range of activities and resources that promote diversity and anti-discriminatory practice. They celebrate festivals including Afro-Caribbean Day, Diwali, Easter and Christmas and taste different foods.

Parents are kept informed about the childminder's practice and the provision through daily feedback diaries and verbal communication. Some information is sought from parents about their child on an ongoing basis and on admission. There are suitable arrangements to develop partnerships with other professionals such as local pre-school staff, to promote learning and well-being for the children.

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

The children are mostly occupied and content in the childminder's house. They are provided with some opportunities to help them make progress in their learning and

development. The childminder endeavours to create a homely environment in which children can develop their self-confidence. Therefore, they have a positive and close relationship with her. The childminder is developing her understanding of the EYFS but, although she observes and assesses children's development, her findings are not always recorded to plan their next steps in learning. Consequently, children's individual learning needs are not always met through ensuring they are sufficiently challenged.

A suitable range of resources is used appropriately to interest children and to aid learning. The childminder puts the emphasis on free play so that children can use the resources imaginatively and follow their natural curiosity as learners. Children show confidence in talking to adults and share their experiences of meeting 'Santa' at school. A suitable selection of books is readily accessible and opportunities are provided for all children to use writing for different purposes in their play. Through a suitable range of activities, children are supported in developing their understanding of numbers, shapes, size, counting and problem-solving. They are encouraged to recognise numerals in books and on toys, and to count everyday objects both indoors and outdoors. Children recognise some numerals and take pleasure in counting up to 12 spontaneously during play.

Children develop their creative talents, as they use a suitable range of art and craft material to create their artwork. They benefit from the childminder's expertise and develop new skills, such as using recycled materials to make musical instruments and Christmas trees. They explore and share their thoughts through music, texture experiences and role play such as making a tent or a bed for their friends using a blanket. Some activities are planned to supplement children's learning and knowledge of the environment, including trips to a garden centre to buy plants and subsequently to see how they grow. Children take regular walks to the local park to observe seasonal changes and collect natural materials for making collages and Christmas decorations. They acquire basic skills through using play telephones, walkie-talkies and a variety of electronic toys to develop their understanding of how technology will help them in their everyday lives.

Children are generally helped to learn how to keep themselves fit. A suitable range of indoor physical activities, including construction play, contributes to a healthy lifestyle. The resources in the back garden provide sufficient challenge for a varied age group. They go for walks in the area and regularly take part in physical play at their local park. Meal and snack times are sociable and relaxed. A selection of fresh fruits and drinks are readily available throughout the session. Children's packed lunches are stored safely. Children routinely follow hygiene practices such as washing hands after using the toilet and before eating. Children are well-behaved and have a good awareness of right and wrong, responding positively to directions from the childminder. They are keen to offer help to the childminder with tidying up toys and small household tasks.

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?	4
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement	4

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

How effectively is the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?	4
The effectiveness of leadership and management in embedding ambition and driving improvement	4
The effectiveness with which the setting deploys resources	3
The effectiveness with which the setting promotes equality and diversity	3
The effectiveness of safeguarding	4
The effectiveness of the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement	4
The effectiveness of partnerships	3
The effectiveness of the setting's engagement with parents and carers	3

The quality of the provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage

The quality of the provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage	4
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Outcomes for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage

Outcomes for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage	3
The extent to which children achieve and enjoy their learning	3
The extent to which children feel safe	4
The extent to which children adopt healthy lifestyles	3
The extent to which children make a positive contribution	3
The extent to which children develop skills for the future	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:

- take action as specified in the early years section of the report (Welfare of the children being cared for)(also applies to the Voluntary part of the Childcare Register) 21/12/2009
- take action as specified in the early years section of the report. (Arrangements for safeguarding children) (also applies to the Voluntary part of the Childcare Register) 21/12/2009
- take action as specified in the early years section of the report. (Suitability and safety of premises and equipment) (also applies to the Voluntary part of the Childcare Register). 21/12/2009

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 (Welfare of the children being cared for)(also applies to the Compulsory part of the Childcare Register) 21/12/2009
- take action as specified in the early years section of the report. (Arrangements for safeguarding children) (also applies to the Compulsory part of the Childcare Register) 21/12/2009
- take action as specified in the early years section of the report. (Suitability and safety of premises and equipment) (also applies to the Compulsory part of the Childcare Register). 21/12/2009