

## Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique reference number</b>	EY310283
<b>Inspection date</b>	04/08/2009
<b>Inspector</b>	Elizabeth Margaret Grocott
<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 2005 and lives with her two daughters aged 16 and eight years, in the Walton area of Liverpool. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding. On the first floor the bathroom and one bedroom is used. There is an outdoor patio garden to the rear of the property. The provision is registered on the Early Years Register and also the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. Most of the provision is at ground level with steps to the front access and a small step down into the kitchen. There is no lift access to the first floor.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children under eight years, of whom three may be in the early years age group. There are currently three children on roll of whom two are within the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). The childminder also offers care to children over five years to 11 years. The childminder goes to local groups and receives support from the local authority. The childminder has a dog, two cats and some tropical fish.

## Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall, the quality of the provision is satisfactory. The children are comfortable and happy in the childminder's care, where their individual needs are valued and respected. They are included and actively involved as the childminder focuses on their care and learning needs throughout the day. The childminder demonstrates a sound capacity to improve herself and outcomes for children. She keeps up-to-date through regular training and contact with the childminding network. Although there is a risk assessment this has not been extended to cover the kitchen and at times older children are unsupervised. Not all adults in contact with children have undergone relevant Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checks. This poses a risk to children's safety.

## What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- ensure the risk assessment covers anything with which a child may come into contact for example, the kitchen
- make sure all children are supervised at all times, with staffing arrangements organised to meet the individual needs of all children
- use observations of children to assess the progress which they are making and plan appropriate play and learning experiences based on the children's interests and needs and use assessment to plan the next steps in a child's developmental progress and regularly review this approach
- ensure effective continuity and progression for children who attend more than one setting, by sharing relevant information with each other and parents.

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

- ensure an enhanced Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure in respect of every person aged 16 or over, who lives at the property or who has regular contact with minded children, is sought from Ofsted (Suitability of adults).

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

The childminder has a sound awareness of safeguarding issues which keep children safe and protects them from harm. However, not all adults in the home have had an enhanced CRB check to ensure their suitability to be in close contact with children. This is a breach of regulations and compromise children's safety. The childminder carries out daily visual checks of her home and shows a good understanding of how to keep children safe both at home and when on outings. For example, she uses safety features such as stair gates, smoke alarms and socket covers. Children learn to keep themselves safe as they practice evacuation procedures regularly. They are further protected as the childminder fosters their awareness of road safety. However, the risk assessment does not cover the kitchen, posing a risk to children's safety. Older children play on the first floor but as the door to the main room downstairs is shut, the childminder cannot hear or see sufficiently to supervise play. All relevant paperwork is in place and well maintained along with written permissions from parent for things, such as seeking emergency medical advice or applying sun cream. The policies and procedures clearly underpin the service provided.

The childminder continues her professional development by attending numerous training courses. These include road safety, baby sign language, managing children's behaviour, messy play and EYFS. She has recently started a National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) in Childcare and Education. The skills she develops have a positive impact on the outcomes for children. Children play with a stimulating range of toys and resources, which are well maintained. The childminder is fully informed about children's medical history, health and dietary needs, and routines are effectively managed so they are rested, comfortable and well nourished.

The childminder has developed sound partnerships with parents and provides daily written feedback so as to involve them in their child's day. On occasion she sends text messages when something special or funny happens so they can be alerted straightaway. Parents are also provided with regular newsletters to keep them up to date with the service. However, partnerships with others providing EYFS have not yet been developed meaning that children's progress and achievement is not being shared.

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

The childminder creates an inviting child-friendly learning environment with well laid out activities and toys. She has developed a basic understanding of the learning and development requirements of EYFS and makes some observations of the children but has not yet grasped how to use these to assess their progress and plan next steps in their learning. Children are confident in the childminder's home and select the resources they choose to play with. Older children make bouncy balls out of elastic bands and paper aeroplanes. Younger children enjoy stories, particularly one about the zoo. They recall a recent visit to the zoo and the animals that they saw. They chatter excitedly pointing to the photographs on the wall of their day at the zoo. The childminder is skilled in making children think by using good questioning skills. They discuss the colour of their eyes and how old they are. Younger children enjoy warm relationships as the childminder reinforces their speech and vocabulary, and encourages their sharing and turn taking.

The childminder helps children to learn about the wider world. They grow enormous sunflowers, peas and beans. They learn how to operate the computer and play simple games, they explore with various musical instruments from around the world and taste different foods during the celebration of festivals. Their imagination is developed through role-play, turning them into the character of their choice with dressing up clothes and other artefacts. Children's creative development is encouraged as they play with dry rice and cooked spaghetti and at the park they enjoy healthy exercise as they climb and swing and run about.

There is a balance of adult lead and child initiated activities as the childminder joins in children's play when invited. She is on hand to help resolve the minor squabbles that occur as children learn to respect each other and share the toys. They are encouraged to eat healthily, having fresh fruit throughout the day and helping themselves to water from a cooling machine placed at low level. This helps them develop good habits for the future.

## 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>	3
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	3
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	2

### Leadership and management

<b>How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?</b>	3
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?	3

### Quality and standards

<b>How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?</b>	3
<b>How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?</b>	3
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?	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 Register section of the report (CR2.3) (Also applies to the voluntary part of the Childcare Register).

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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 Childcare Register section of the report (CR2.3).

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