

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number 124795
Inspection date 16/03/2010
Inspector Sandra Patricia Jeffrey

Type of setting Childminder

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Royal Exchange Buildings
St Ann's Square
Manchester
M2 7LA

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.ofsted.gov.uk

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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).

Children only attend this setting before and/or after the school day and/or during the school holidays. The judgements in this report reflect the quality of early years provision offered to children during those periods.

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 two children aged 20 and 14 years in a house in Addiscombe, close to local transport links. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The family have a hamster and some fish as pets.

The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. She is registered to care for three children at any one time and is currently minding one child in the early years age range. The childminder attends local toddler groups on a regular basis and is a member of the National Childminding Association.

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is good.

Children are cared for in a safe and stimulating environment where the childminder recognises each child's individuality and effectively promotes inclusive practice. The childminder promotes children's welfare and development successfully and ensures that the children are happy and well supported. Children make generally good progress in their learning because the childminder has a good understanding of how children learn new skills. Good communication systems and partnerships with parents have been established which ensure continuity of care for the children. The childminder is able to reflect on her practice and is able to recognise her strengths and areas for improvement.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- request written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment. 30/03/2010

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

- develop further, the observation and assessment system of children's achievements to ensure their progress is effectively tracked and any issues highlighted at an early stage
- further develop the risk assessment records to ensure they are fully effective
- additional ways to give parents more opportunities to become actively involved in their children's learning and development, to support the children's learning journey.

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder has a good understanding of the procedures to follow to safeguard children and knows how to make a referral if she is worried about a child in her care. Appropriate health and welfare policies are in place and shared with parents. The childminder has an up-to-date first aid certificate.

The childminder has given good consideration to ensuring that children are kept safe whilst in the home and conducts regular risk assessments of the premises and the equipment. In addition, risk assessments for outings are also conducted and recorded. Records are, however, not fully effective as they are not always fully completed. Regular fire evacuations are practised to ensure children are familiar with the routine in the event of a real emergency.

The childminder demonstrates a good level of ambition and drive for improvement in the service she provides and demonstrates a positive approach towards making improvements to her provision. She has attended training on the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) framework and ensures she keeps up to date with current childcare issues. Therefore, the childminder is continuously enhancing the welfare, learning and development opportunities, for children in her care.

The childminder provides a child centred and welcoming environment, where children help themselves to clean and very well maintained toys and resources. The childminder's home has been organised to maximise children's comfort and enjoyment and children evidently feel at ease in the welcoming surroundings. The childminder organises space and play resources well which enables children to safely engage in age appropriate play experiences. The childminder also ensures she is on hand to offer support and guidance to the children at their level throughout the day.

The children and their families are warmly welcomed by the childminder, who demonstrates a commitment to working closely with parents. Relationships with parents are friendly, and the childminder ensures there is a daily exchange of information about the children's care, although parents are not currently actively encouraged to become involved in the children's learning and development programme.

There are no children attending currently who receive care from any other provider offering the EYFS. The childminder is, however, aware of the need to extend working partnerships to these groups, such as nursery teachers and/or preschool key persons.

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

Children are cared for in a warm and caring environment which enables them to develop a sense of belonging and trust. Children are happy and feel secure as they

respond positively to the individual attention they receive from the childminder. The childminder responds affectionately towards the children and is aware of their individual routines and interests. For example, she knows when they are in need of extra love and support following on from recent poor health.

Children take part in a good variety of activities that support their development and help them make progress towards the early learning goals. They confidently help themselves to the clean and easily accessible resources and actively involve the childminder in their play, for example, as they play with the dolls, 'feeding' them their milk. They enjoy a varied balance of indoor and outdoor activities, including daily visits to local parks, the library and toddler groups; where they socialise with other children and learn to share and take turns with the additional toys and resources, that also help them to develop their skills for the future.

Children are making generally good progress in their learning and development from their starting points. Written observations of the children's progress and achievements are well maintained and are used to plan appropriate activities to promote children's future learning and development. The childminder is still developing her system for making assessments of children's progress to ensure that observations and assessments are used to support children's next steps towards the early learning goals.

Children are safe and secure in the care of the childminder, who affords them warmth and security and a sense of calm and order. A happy and relaxed atmosphere is evident and children respond positively to the gentle reminders from the childminder to be careful, for example, when leaning into the toy box, to prevent them from falling in.

Children are actively encouraged to develop healthy lifestyles and to enjoy a healthy and nutritious diet, in close consultation with parents. Drinks of water and fruit juice are made readily accessible for the children to enjoy. Children play and relax in a clean and tidy home, where suitable hygiene practices are in place, further promoting their health and welfare.

Whilst the childminder has requested verbal parental permission to seek emergency medical advice and/or treatment, she has failed to confirm this in writing. This may result in a delay in obtaining the correct treatment for children in an emergency.

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?	2
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement	2

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

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

The quality of the provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage

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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	2
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: Met

The provider confirms that the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register are: Met