

Inspection report for early years provision

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Inspection date	09/10/2009
Inspector	Alison Weaver
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 has been registered since 1988. She has a recognised childcare qualification. She lives with her husband in a house in Frittenden near to schools and parks. The whole of the ground floor of the property, an upstairs bathroom and a bedroom are used for childminding. There is a small step from the hall into the dining area. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The childminder has one 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 years age range. She is currently minding six children in this age group. She also offers care to children aged over five years to 11 years. This provision is registered by Ofsted on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register.

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is satisfactory.

Children make satisfactory progress in their care and education. They are happy and interested in the varied toys and activities provided by the childminder. Children's safety and well-being is satisfactorily promoted although there are some weaknesses in the related documentation that the childminder is required to keep. The childminder has a number of plans that are likely to continue to improve outcomes for children, particularly with regard to their learning.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- improve the record of risk assessment so that it includes information on who conducted it, date of review and any action taken following a review or incident and ensure that it considers everything with which a child comes into contact (Documentation) 23/10/2009
- obtain written permission for each and every medicine from parents before any medication is given (Safeguarding and promoting children's welfare - also applies to both parts of the Childcare Register). 12/10/2009

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

- continue to develop the observation and assessment system and the use of identified learning priorities for each child in order to plan and provide learning experiences that are tailored to meet their needs

- develop opportunities for parents to contribute to the observation and assessment process for their child
- develop links with other providers in order to share information about individual children and ensure continuity of care and education
- update the record of risk assessment to include any assessments of risks for outings and trips.

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder has completed basic safeguarding training to improve her knowledge of how to identify and report possible cases of child abuse. She is fully aware of her responsibility to protect the children in her care. In general, the home is kept secure and the appropriate safety precautions are taken so that children play free from harm. However, there is no rigorous and clear record of risk assessments for the premises and for outings to make certain she has identified and minimised all risks to children. The childminder obtains verbal parental consent for the administration of any medication but she does not get this prior permission in writing to fully ensure that children are given the correct dosage as required by the parent. These two weaknesses in record keeping are breaches of the legal requirements although are currently having minimal impact on the care of the children. All other required documentation is in place and appropriately maintained.

The childminder obtains information about each child so that she can meet their needs and respect the wishes of parents. She keeps them informed about their child's day through verbal feedback and the use of care diaries. Parents are made aware of the childminder's practices as they are given copies of all her written policies and procedures. However, she has not yet fully developed opportunities for parents to share in children's learning and development. Links with other providers are also not firmly established to ensure continuity of care and education for each child.

The childminder has started to formally evaluate her practices and identify areas for improvement. She has attended some training and actively sought input from a support worker. This has enabled her to put in place a number of positive measures that have improved her recording of observations of the children so that she can help them make progress.

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

The childminder has a sound knowledge of the learning and development requirements and how to meet them. She is still in the process of developing a suitable observation and assessment system to help ensure that children make progress towards the early learning goals. The childminder is identifying next steps for each child so that she can provide activities that will challenge them.

Children are settled and content. They build positive relationships with the childminder and enjoy being with her. They smile and giggle as they play with her and learn to express their needs. Children get excited and clap themselves as they achieve. They confidently explore the toys and the environment. They begin to make their own choices about the resources they play with. Children are fascinated by the toys that make different sounds and movements. The childminder encourages them to investigate and move the knobs and switches themselves. Children show that their fine motor skills are developing well. The childminder continually talks to children and promotes their language skills. Children enjoy looking at the books with the childminder.

Children's health needs are satisfactorily met. They are encouraged to eat healthily when with the childminder and help themselves to a drink when they get thirsty. Satisfactory hygiene procedures are implemented to maintain children's good health. There are plenty of opportunities for them to play outside in the fresh air and enjoy physical exercise.

Children develop a satisfactory sense of personal safety. Young children's individual home routines are followed to help them feel secure and settled. They play in a generally safe and secure environment. They learn about safety as they practise fire drills and make posters about how to stay safe 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?	3
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement	3

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

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

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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	3
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 (Records to be kept). 12/10/2009

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 (Records to be kept). 12/10/2009