

## Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique reference number</b>	119418
<b>Inspection date</b>	27/11/2009
<b>Inspector</b>	Tina Anne Mason
<b>Type of setting</b>	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 1986. She is registered on the Early Years Register and on the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. The childminder lives with her husband and four children aged one year 11, 12 and 16 years old in Leigh-on-Sea in Essex. The ground floor of the house is used for childminding except the annexe and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside 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 one child in this age group. She also offers care to children aged over five years to 11 years.

The childminder walks to local schools to collect children. She takes children to the local library, park and shops. The family have a pet cat. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

## The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is inadequate.

The childminder provides a friendly environment for children. Adequate procedures are in place to gather sufficient information about their individual needs from parents. The childminder has many years of experience and provides a suitable range of activities for children which cover most of the areas of learning. However, she does not have effective procedures in place to monitor her provision and promote continuous development. She has not kept up-to-date with the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and has breached some of the specific legal requirements.

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 all children are supported in their progress towards the early learning goals in all areas of learning by making systematic observations and assessments and using these to plan relevant and motivating experiences for each child (Early learning goals) 25/01/2010
- using sensitive observational assessments, plan and organise systems to ensure that every child receives 25/01/2010

- an enjoyable, challenging learning and development experience that is tailored to meet their individual needs (Educational programmes)
- improve knowledge and understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage so that children are provided with an educational programme that will enable them to make progress towards the early learning goals in all areas of learning (Educational programmes) 25/01/2010
  - ensure risk assessments are conducted and reviewed regularly (at least once a year or more frequently where the need arises) and identify all aspects of the environment, outings and daily routines and that need to be checked on a regular basis (Suitable premises, environment and equipment) (also applies to Childcare Register) 25/01/2010
  - develop and implement robust systems for identifying strengths and monitoring areas for improvement to raise the quality of care and children's learning (Organisation) 25/01/2010
  - obtain written permission from parents to seek any necessary emergency medical advice or treatment (safeguarding and welfare) 25/01/2010

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

The childminder has a limited understanding and awareness of the Early Years Foundation Stage requirements and is not fully safeguarding children effectively. She has not completed risk assessments to help her identify hazards and minimise risks to children both inside and outside the home. Nonetheless, she demonstrates a sound understanding of the signs and symptoms of child abuse, including procedures to follow should she have any concerns. The childminder holds a current first aid certificate and demonstrates a sound understanding of how to care for children in the event of an accident.

The childminder does not readily identify areas within her practice that require development in order to improve outcomes for children. For example, her limited understanding of the learning and developmental requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage means that effective procedures to observe, assess and plan for each child are not in place. Furthermore, she does not obtain written consent from parents for emergency medical treatment, which was a recommendation raised at the last inspection. Appropriate use is made of the available space to enable children to move around freely. The childminder provides some activities and opportunities to stimulate the children, but these lack differentiation. Which does not effectively promote children's progress towards the early learning goals.

Partnerships with parents and carers is limited. Basic information is gathered from them, such as parental contact numbers, emergency contact numbers and most parental permissions are in place. The childminder keeps them informed of their

child's care during the day through informal verbal communication. However, they are not involved in their child's learning and development, there are no developed procedures to gather information regarding children's starting points to ensure that parents are kept informed about their child's progress towards the early learning goals. In addition, the childminder does not have a written complaints procedures in place. The childminder demonstrates a suitable attitude towards ensuring that all children are included at the setting.

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

The childminder knows the children well and treats them as part of her family. Children are able to move around freely, accessing resources and toys from low-level storage boxes. Children show an interest in the ride along toys and particularly enjoy pushing the doll around in the buggy. They play with small world animals and enjoy sitting with the childminder looking at books and listening to stories. However, the childminder has limited understanding of the learning and development requirements and guidance, therefore children are not fully supported to their full potential. In addition, the lack of observations and assessments results in children not having opportunities to become involved with activities and resources to meet their ongoing interests and learning styles.

Children are beginning to learn about a healthy lifestyle through regular walks to the park or local areas of natural interest. For example, they visit Blenheim park to watch the horses and visit Brentwood woods for picnics. They are able to fully benefit from the fresh air and exercise whilst learning about the natural world around them, studying the changes in seasons by looking at the leaves and flowers. Children are offered regular drinks of either water or milk. The childminder has a suitable understanding of the importance of providing a healthy balanced diet, snacks provided consist of fruit and meals include lots of fresh vegetables.

The childminder uses appropriate techniques to promote children's positive behaviour. For example, reminding them to say please and thank you and encouraging them to share. Children are beginning to understand healthy habits as the childminder reminds them to wash their hands at the appropriate times. The childminder practises road safety with the children and encourages them not to run around indoors. This helps them learn how to keep themselves safe.

## 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

<b>How well does the setting meet the needs of the children in the Early Years Foundation Stage?</b>	4
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement	4

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

<b>How effectively is the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?</b>	4
The effectiveness of leadership and management in embedding ambition and driving improvement	4
The effectiveness with which the setting deploys resources	4
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

<b>Outcomes for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage</b>	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	4

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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:

- keep and implement a written statement of procedures to be followed in relation to complaints which relate to the requirements of the Childcare Register and which a parent makes in writing or email (Procedures for dealing with complaints)(also applies to the voluntary Childcare Register) 25/01/2010
- take action as specified in the compulsory part of the Childcare Register part of the report 25/01/2010
- take action as specified in the Early Years Register part of the report 25/01/2010

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:

- keep and implement a written statement of procedures to be followed in relation to complaints which relate to the requirements of the Childcare Register and which a parent makes in writing or email (Procedures for dealing with complaints)(also applies to the voluntary Childcare Register) 25/01/2010