

Inspection report for early years provision

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Inspection date	10/11/2009
Inspector	Rosemary Beyer
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 April 2009. She lives with her husband and their two young children. They live within walking distance of the city centre, parks, schools, pre-schools and shops. The whole of the home is used for childminding except for the main bedroom on the first floor. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

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 a maximum of four children at any one time and currently has 11 children on roll, of whom six are in the early years age group and attend part time.

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is good.

The childminder has an excellent knowledge of each child's individual needs which ensures she promotes all aspects of their welfare and learning very successfully. The children are safe and secure at all times and enjoy visits into the local community, particularly the park. Partnerships with parents, school nursery and local playgroups ensure the children's needs are met and they receive any additional support they need. The childminder has started to evaluate her practice and has consulted parents to gauge their satisfaction with the service she provides and to ensure she meets the needs of all users. She has not yet started to include the children in her evaluation.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- develop opportunities for children to participate in the self-evaluation process
- develop the assessment arrangements to identify children's next steps.

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder ensures the children are safe and secure, supervising them well at all times. She has completed risk assessments with review dates to ensure the resources and premises are safe and suitable. Outings to the park have also been assessed and the children use the skate park when older children are at school to develop their physical skills. She has a good knowledge of local safeguarding procedures and makes parents aware of her responsibility to protect their children. She has lost and uncollected child policies which include notification of Ofsted. No unauthorised persons are allowed unsupervised access to the children and she has clear information from parents about those who collect their children.

Through careful but flexible planning the childminder ensures the children have learning opportunities in all areas, with activities developed to interest and excite them. They are all learning about the need for a healthy lifestyle to stay fit and well and have an excellent awareness of healthy eating and good hygiene practice. They have fresh air each day and a well balanced diet of home prepared freshly cooked meals which they enjoy.

A wide range of activities in the garden and park ensures the children are making good progress physically, developing strength and mobility, moving around capably and confidently. They learn about the natural world, watching mini beasts and identifying birds and flowers. One parent commented in the evaluation letter how her son had developed a real interest in spiders after watching them in webs on a frosty morning in the park.

The childminder has well written policies and procedures to ensure the safe and efficient management of the setting. These are made available to parents, who give the necessary permissions for the childminder to ensure care meets their individual needs. Details of the registration conditions and the complaints procedure are also made available to them.

The childminder has started to develop a self-evaluation procedure and has consulted parents about the care she provides. Letters from parents express great satisfaction with the care provided, and confidence their children are safe and enjoying themselves, while participating in a wide range of activities. The daily verbal feedback and the development books are very much valued. At this stage she has not included the children in her evaluation although they already make their views known about activities and food. As part of her plans for the future she has started to introduce activities to raise children's awareness of diversity.

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

The children are happy and settled in the childminder's care, with resources readily available and the child friendly environment offering a wide range of learning opportunities. They are confident to ask visitors for help when they need it and are starting to develop good communication skills. They behave well and young children understand the need to share and take turns.

During the inspection children brought books for the childminder to read in the comfortable book area. There is a good mix of books for stories and facts which they can select for themselves. They enjoy stories and singing, and through conversation and discussion are developing a wide vocabulary. Music is an integral part of the children's day, and they use a wide range of instruments, some from other cultures to accompany their singing. Classical music provides a calming background for their play.

The children are developing an excellent awareness of the need for a healthy lifestyle to stay fit and well. They have fresh air each day and a well balanced diet of freshly prepared food, which they enjoy. The children make their likes and

dislikes clear, with the older ones no longer liking the chicken stew which the younger children love. They help to prepare meals as they develop their skills. Good hygiene practice is also supported very well, with hand washing and the use of paper towels to prevent the spread of infection. The children understand they need to remove germs which can make them ill. Fresh air and exercise are a priority and the childminder uses the outings in the locality and time in the garden or park to promote children's learning in all areas.

Visits into the city centre to the library or museums and to local groups help the children develop confidence and social skills. The toy library is also a source of toys and resources to provide variety and interest. Through the introduction of music, festivals and foods the children are starting to become aware of different cultures and learning to treat people with respect.

Activity plans promote learning through exciting activities and resources, with children free to help themselves and make suggestions to promote their own interests. They are keen to try new things and the positive encouraging environment supports their efforts however successful they may be. Each child has a development record with photos and observations of their achievements to monitor their progress. The childminder has developed a system of assessment to effectively monitor children's progress and take full account of their starting points, ages and abilities, however this does not always include the next steps.

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	3

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	2
The effectiveness of the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement	3
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

The quality of the provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage	2
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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	1
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
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The provider confirms that the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register are:	Met
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