

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY268953
Inspection date	12/01/2010
Inspector	Alison Weaver
Type of setting	Childminder

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

T: 08456 404040
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).

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 2003. She has a primary school teaching qualification. She lives with her husband and three children aged nine years, seven years and five years. They live in a house in Seaford near schools, shops and parks. The whole of the ground floor, some of the bedrooms and the upstairs bathroom are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden on two levels that is available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four 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 childminder attends local carer and toddler groups on a regular basis. The childminder has experience of supporting children with special educational needs and/or disabilities. The childminder supports children who have English as an additional language.

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is good.

Children enjoy their time with the childminder and make good progress as she is very focused on helping each individual child learn and develop. Overall, children's welfare needs are routinely met well and there are good procedures to keep them safe and healthy. Parents are happy with the care provided by the childminder. She forms effective links with parents based mainly on verbal two-way communication. The childminder shows a capacity to continually improve outcomes for children.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- obtain written parental permission for the seeking of any necessary emergency medical advice or treatment in the future (Safeguarding and promoting children's welfare). 22/01/2010

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

- develop links with other providers to ensure continuity of care and education
- update the record of risk assessment to include more specific detail about

- each type of outing
- improve the record of administration of medication to include all the relevant details.

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder has a secure knowledge of how to safeguard children and is fully aware of her responsibilities to report any possible cases of child abuse or neglect. Her home is kept safe and secure for children at all times. All necessary safety precautions are put in place so that children can play and move around independently without coming to any harm. She has appropriate procedures for keeping children safe on outings. However, her record of risk assessment does not cover every type of outing that she carries out to fully ensure she has identified and minimised all potential hazards effectively. The majority of all other required documentation is in place and is generally well maintained. In some instances, the record of administration of medication lacks clarity. The childminder stated that she would contact parents to seek their verbal permission to access medical treatment for their child in the event of an emergency. However, she is in breach of the legal welfare requirements as she has failed to obtain this permission in writing.

The childminder forms positive, friendly and largely informal partnerships with parents. She works closely with them to respect their wishes and provide appropriate care for their children. She shares written information about her childcare practices with parents so that they know what to expect. She communicates with them on a daily basis so that they are kept well informed about their child's welfare and development. The childminder seeks to support parents who have concerns about their child by offering advice and help. She encourages parents to share their observations about their child's development and takes these into account when planning activities.

The childminder has only recently started to evaluate her practices. She is aware of her weaknesses and the need to address them. Since the last inspection the childminder has made some improvements to her provision that have benefited children. These include the introduction of tracker books to assess children's progress and to plan their next steps for their learning.

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

Children arrive happily and soon settle in the warm, friendly and homely environment. Young children show they feel secure with the childminder as they smilingly peep at visitors whilst enjoying cuddles with her. The childminder builds good relationships with the children. They smile and respond to the childminder as she talks and plays with them. Young children show an interest in what is happening around them. They start to explore their surroundings and like the toys that make different sounds. The childminder encourages them to develop their

physical skills as they learn to stand using the furniture and crawl after toys. Children like to jiggle to the music and enjoy the opportunities they have to play with instruments such as the keyboard.

Children play with a good range of safe and suitable toys that the childminder uses well to promote their development. Their fine motor skills develop well as they post different shapes and play with small world toys. They learn to count as they play. The childminder develops a good awareness of each child's abilities and interests by observing them and talking to parents about their stages of development. She provides activities that will help children continue to make progress in all areas of learning. The childminder only has a formal observation and assessment system for those children who attend her provision for long periods of time. She informally tracks the progress of all other children in order to ensure that every child is achieving and working towards the early learning goals. The childminder has not yet formed fully effective working links with other childcare providers in order to provide each child with continuity and coherence in their care and education.

Children develop a good awareness of safety when they go on outings together. They learn how to stay safe as they go on walks and cross the roads. The childminder has clear boundaries for children both indoors and outdoors to help them learn about what is safe to do. They also practise fire drills so that they know what to do in an emergency.

Children develop a healthy lifestyle as they are encouraged to have a healthy diet and have easy access to drinks. The childminder obtains the relevant information about each child and this enables her to meet their individual dietary and health needs. Effective everyday routines help develop children's awareness of the importance of good personal hygiene. They have daily opportunities to exercise and use their bodies in different forms of physical play.

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	2
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	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	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
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The provider confirms that the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register are:	Met
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