

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY346581
Inspection date	14/07/2010
Inspector	Patricia Dawes
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 2007. She lives in a house in Ettingshall Park, West Midlands with her husband and three children, one aged 10 years and twins aged five years. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The house is within walking distance of local amenities, such as, schools, parks and shops. The childminder is able to take and collect children from school.

The childminder is registered by Ofsted on the Early Years Register and on the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time and is currently caring for three children in the early year's age range.

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is good.

Children are able to play in a safe, welcoming and inclusive environment where they share warm, friendly relationships with the childminder. The childminder provides a good variety of stimulating activities to help children learn and develop within the Early Years Foundation Stage, consequently children make good progress towards the early learning goals. Effective partnerships have been established with parents to ensure children's individual needs are met and their welfare and learning is supported. Whilst the childminder has not formally evaluated her childcare provision, she does have a clear understanding of her strengths and areas requiring development. All of the required documentation to promote children's safety and welfare is in place.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- develop further the self evaluation process to identify the strengths and priorities for development that will improve the quality of provision for all children

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

Children are efficiently safeguarded because the childminder has a secure knowledge and understanding of the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures. The childminder shares child protection good practice guidance and procedures with parents. Vetting procedures include all adults in the household undergoing Criminal Record Bureau checks to ensure they are suitable to have contact with children. The childminder ensures children are safe and secure both inside and outside the home. She undertakes regular risk assessments and records

these to identify hazards within the setting and when she takes children on outings to various locations. Regular fire drills are also discussed and practised so that children know how to keep themselves safe in an emergency. There are suitable systems in place to record children's attendance, accidents and medication. All records are stored appropriately to ensure confidentiality.

Children are happy to play independently and the childminder is always close at hand to offer support. A comprehensive range of resources is easily accessible and the childminder ensures that they are developmentally appropriate for the children in her care. She spends time interacting effectively in a natural and sensitive way, enabling children to be supported to explore the experiences available to them. The childminder demonstrates a positive attitude to inclusion and offers a warm welcome to all children. Children develop knowledge and understanding of the wider world as they explore the local environment with regular outings to a local park and play venues and access an extended range of resources that reflect positive images of diversity.

The childminder works closely with parents from the outset, gathering key information about children's individual care needs and interests to help them settle in. The childminder makes sure parents are kept informed about their child's daily routine and achievements through regular daily discussions. The childminder currently cares for children who attend other settings that provide the Early Years Foundation Stage and liaises when needed to ensure continuity of the care and learning provided.

The childminder has a clear understanding of her strengths and areas for improvement. She is committed to improving her practice and completing a formal self evaluation of her provision. She has a clear vision for the future and plans to improve her knowledge and skills through further training to demonstrate her commitment to continuous improvement.

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

Children make good progress in their learning and development within the Early Years Foundation Stage. The childminder creates a comfortable and relaxed environment for children and this helps them to develop a sense of belonging. The childminder has a secure knowledge of the Early Years Foundation Stage. She focuses on children's enjoyment of activities and incorporates learning experiences as they play. Planning and assessment systems are well developed. The childminder completes initial observations of the children as they settle in and uses regular written observations to plan the next steps in children's learning.

Children have frequent opportunities to be physically active and creative. They like painting, cooking, colouring and sticking activities. The childminder interacts effectively with the children and they enjoy her involvement in their play, such as, when completing large jigsaws. Children have opportunities to develop their skills to draw pictures and practise writing their name. Children's language and communication skills are fostered appropriately, they look at picture books to

develop their vocabulary, listen to stories with enjoyment and like to sing songs. Children's understanding of numbers and problem solving is supported well. They explore shape, size and colour as they play with shape sorters, puzzles and building blocks. The childminder helps children develop their knowledge and understanding of the world. They talk about caring for the environment and have fun planting bulbs and growing flowers.

Children's welfare is promoted and the childminder has a comprehensive portfolio, including a range of written policies and procedures which she shares with parents. The childminder has a calm approach to behaviour management. She praises children in their achievements and encourages them to get on well together. Good behaviour is promoted through discussions based on the child's level of understanding, with reminders about sharing space and resources. Children's awareness of keeping themselves safe is developing well. They learn about road safety and stranger danger whilst on outings and how to use equipment and toys in a safe way. Suitable procedures are in place to prevent the spread of infection, for example, procedures for hand washing at appropriate times and the exclusion of sick children. The childminder holds a valid first aid certificate, this ensures she can treat children appropriately in the event of an emergency. Children's dietary needs are met and details of any individual needs are recorded. Healthy eating is encouraged and currently the childminder provides snacks and regular drinks to ensure children are kept hydrated. Overall, children develop appropriate skills in communicating, literacy and numeracy that will support their future learning.

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