

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY406013
Inspection date	11/10/2010
Inspector	K.A. Bryan
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.

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Description of the childminding

The childminder was registered in 2010 and lives in a house in Leicester City with her husband and two children aged 14 and 10 years. Within the home children have access to the whole of the ground floor and the garden. The family has a dog. The childminder walks to the local school to take and collect children. She attends the local parent, carer and toddler groups and takes children to the library and local park.

The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register to care for a maximum of four children under eight years at any one time, no more than three of which may be in the early years age range. There are currently four children on roll of which three are in the early years age range. She also offers care to children aged over five to 11 years. This provision is registered by Ofsted on the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. 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 good.

The needs of children are met well because the childminder ensures she has all the required information to treat them as individuals. This is obtained as she works closely with parents to recognise children's uniqueness. All children make good progress in their learning and they enjoy their time at the childminder's as a good range of activities is offered. All required policies and procedures are in place and the childminder is using self-evaluation well to reflect upon her practice. This is the first inspection since registration.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- ensure that children's starting points are linked to the areas of learning.

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder has a good understanding of how to safeguard children and has undertaken child protection training. Parents receive a copy of the safeguarding policy so they understand how their child will be protected from harm. The policy demonstrates the childminder's clear awareness of reporting procedures. All adults at the home have been vetted and children are never left with people who have

not been cleared so their safety is enhanced.

The childminder helps children to understand about safety as they follow house rules, such as not running and learn about the consequences of their actions. Children have been encouraged to devise their own rules for safety in the garden which promotes their sense of responsibility well. The childminder has a good range of measures in place to keep children safe, for example, a stairgate to the hall and when she is out she takes a mobile phone including emergency contact numbers, so safety is always well promoted. A useful risk assessment is in place which covers outdoor play and trips and all required fire prevention equipment is in place to ensure children's safety. Daily equipment checks also ensure resources are safe for children to use.

The childminder has all required policies and procedures in place and parents receive a copy of these so they understand how their child will be cared for. The childminder speaks to the parents daily about their child and each child has a daily diary so parents can share in their achievements. Parents are pleased with the service their child is receiving and this is demonstrated by letters they have written. The childminder also works well with others who deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage to children as she regularly liaises with staff at the local school.

The childminder has completed a range of courses to extend her knowledge which include the Introduction to Childminding Practice course, first aid, food safety and Birth to Three Matters. She also has a Level 2 childcare qualification. She has also identified further training in the area of special educational needs and/or disabilities to extend her practice. The childminder uses self-evaluation and a reflective diary well to identify areas for continuous improvement, such as, developing the garden.

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

The childminder understands the Early Years Foundation Stage well although starting points are not yet linked to the areas of learning. Weekly planning covers all areas of learning and observations show what children have achieved. Each child has a 'Learning Journey', which is shared with parents, and the childminder is clear about what children need to learn next in order to make good progress. The childminder has a good awareness of helping children to learn through play, for example, as they cook they weigh and measure, talk about what they are doing and learn to recognise shapes. This helps to cement their learning and children enjoy the praise they receive when they identify shapes.

Children have easy access to a good range of resources which helps them to develop confidence in making choices. For example, children happily select puzzles and enjoy being in the ball pool. Their awareness of the written word is well promoted as they choose their name cards to 'sign' into the home and words are displayed around the room, such as dolls. They also visit the library and choose their own books.

The childminder is promoting children's awareness of the wider environment well as they grow tomatoes and use these to learn about healthy eating. They are also involved in recycling and use junk, such as plastic bottles to make rockets.

The childminder has a good understanding of allowing children to explore their environment and they move confidently around the lounge or into the garden where they enjoy using chalks on the flagstones. Warm relationships are in place between the childminder and the children and they know she will listen and respond to them. Displays of their work are also on the walls and this helps to promote their self-esteem.

Children behave well and are beginning to understand how to work together. They understand simple rules, such as sharing and the childminder is a good role model as she gently and calmly reminds children what is expected of them.

The childminder explains to children about how to keep healthy and good measures, such as regular hand washing, the use of liquid soap and individual towels and flannels, helps to reduce cross-contamination.

Children enjoy outings into the local community which include parks, where they have access to large equipment, such as climbing frames and swings, which help to develop their physical skills well. They also go to other childminder's homes which provide them with good opportunities to socialise. The childminder also helps children to develop an awareness of the wider world, for example, as she talks to them about the history of the area and different cultures.

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

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the Early Years Foundation Stage	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

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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