

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY294003
Inspection date	19/01/2011
Inspector	Dianne Sadler
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 2004. She lives with her husband and two children aged eight and 12 years in Coventry. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding purposes, as well as the bathroom and two of the children's bedrooms on the first floor. There is a garden available for outdoor play. The childminder takes and collects children from local schools and pre-schools.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children, under eight years of age, at any one time. The childminder is currently caring for ten children in total, seven of whom are in the early years age group. The childminder supports children with English as an additional language. The childminder is also registered to provide overnight care for one child under eight years of age. This provision is registered on the Early Years Register and on the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register.

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is good.

Children are very well settled in an inclusive environment in which they are totally at ease. Effective arrangements exist to ensure children make good progress in their learning and their health and safety is protected well. The childminder develops successful partnerships with parents and other providers. Good monitoring systems enable the childminder to have an accurate understanding of the setting's strengths and there are plans for further development in order to better all outcomes for children.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- improve further the assessment system to identify children's next steps in learning towards all the early learning goals
- improve further systems to share children's learning and development with other providers.

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

Children are safeguarded well due to the effective procedures for identifying any child at risk of harm. The childminder demonstrates a good understanding of child protection procedures, which are shared with parents. Children are cared for in a safe and secure environment. The childminder keeps well-written risk assessments for all areas of the premises and for outings, with all hazards identified and minimised. Children's records, required for the safe and efficient management of

the provision, are in place and effective in practice.

The childminder has developed strong and effective relationships with parents and there is a good two-way flow of information. She offers an inclusive service to ensure each child gets the support they need to make good progress. Parents benefit from accessing a portfolio of informative policies and procedures which ensures they are well-informed. A daily sheet records children's routines and these are given to parents at the end of each day. They can also access their children's learning journals at any time. Parents show complete satisfaction with the service, which is detailed on written questionnaires. They state that children settle very well and are happy in the setting due to the childminder's flexibility and caring nature. The childminder is also developing good relationships with the schools and pre-schools children attend on a regular basis. However, communication is not yet fully focused on children's learning and development.

The childminder has a good awareness of children's individual needs and interests and provides a warm and welcoming environment which fosters children's sense of well-being. Children benefit from accessing a bright and interesting playroom where they see their work displayed and view photographs of them selves at play. Children easily access the plentiful play equipment, which is well organised and stored in colourful boxes at low-level. This allows them to make positive choices and develops good independence. The childminder is committed to improving her practice. She has improved on the recommendation imposed at the previous inspection, which was to update her knowledge and understanding of safeguarding children procedures. Through a detailed self-evaluation document she details targets to improve all outcomes for children in the future. For instance, she intends to send children's learning journals home with parents, in order to encourage them to contribute their views, and to provide children with a small greenhouse where they can grow items, such as vegetables, more easily.

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

Children enjoy the time they spend in the childminder's care, developing positive relationships and making good progress. The childminder plans activities within themes, such as transport, each month. These require both adult involvement and independent discovery. She observes children's development and records the information in their learning journals. She links the information to the six areas of learning but is not using the information to assess the progress children make and identify their next steps towards all the early learning goals. This may compromise the progress they make.

Children are learning about the similarities and differences between themselves and others through well-planned activities and experiences. For instance, they learn about festivals and celebrations, such as Diwali, when they enjoy sweets brought in by parents. Children play well with their peers and understand the need to share, take turns and co-operate. For example, they enjoy drawing around each other's feet and hands using water pens. They concentrate well and excitedly

select other items to draw around from the tool bench. Older children confidently name shapes, such as a rectangle, at this time, thus developing their language skills and their knowledge of shapes.

The childminder is effective in developing children's awareness of a healthy lifestyle. They enjoy healthy and nutritious meals and snacks each day, which offer variety and choice. For instance, at snack time they choose a banana to eat from a selection of fruits and enjoy regular drinks throughout the day which helps to keep them well hydrated. Their dietary needs and preferences are well known by the childminder, who ensures that these are catered for. Children benefit from accessing fresh air and exercise in the garden, on walks to and from school and on events such as woodland walks. They are also learning to keep themselves safe through everyday experiences. For instance, they are encouraged to tidy the resources away after use and regularly practice the emergency evacuation procedure.

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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