

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	252624
Inspection date	18/02/2011
Inspector	Diana Pidgeon
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 1984. She lives with her partner in Mansfield Woodhouse, Nottinghamshire. The family has a dog. The whole of the ground floor and one designated bedroom on the first floor of the home is used for childminding. Toilet facilities are provided on the first floor and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered by Ofsted on the Early Years Register and both the voluntary and compulsory parts of the Childcare Register. She may care for a maximum of six children under eight years at any one time and currently has four children on roll, two of whom are in the early years age group. Of these children, one is in full time education. The childminder takes and collects children from local schools.

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is inadequate.

The childminder provides a welcoming environment where children are happy and enjoy a wide range of activities that promote their learning and development. The childminder is very experienced in caring for children but has not embraced the changes required to meet the Early Years Foundation Stage or kept her training up to date, which impacts significantly on her ability to safeguard children. Effective partnerships with parents and others ensure information is reliably exchanged in order to promote children's welfare and extend their learning. The childminder knows the children well and readily responds to their individual needs. Although the childminder has addressed the recommendations made at the previous inspection she has not taken effective steps to ensure she meets the current requirements and therefore cannot show how continuous improvement is made.

Overall, the early years provision requires significant improvement. The registered person is given a Notice to Improve that sets out actions to be carried out.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

To comply with the requirements of the EYFS the registered person must take the following action by the specified date:

- ensure at least one person who has a current paediatric first aid certificate is on the premises at all times when children are present. There must be at least one person on outings who has a current paediatric first aid certificate (Safeguarding and promoting children's welfare) (also applies to both parts of the Childcare Register) 18/03/2011
- ensure an effective safeguarding policy and procedure 04/03/2011

is implemented (Safeguarding and promoting children's welfare) (also applies to both parts of the Childcare Register)

- keep a record of the risk assessment clearly stating when it was carried out, by whom, date of review and any action taken following a review or incident (Documentation).

04/03/2011

To improve the early years provision the registered person should:

- raise awareness of responsibilities under food hygiene legislation including registration with the Local Authority Environmental Health Department
- develop the use of self-evaluation to clearly identify current strengths and help plan for future improvements.

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder ensures her home is safe and secure and that children are carefully supervised as they play. However, arrangements for safeguarding children overall are not robust because the childminder has failed to renew her first aid certificate in a timely manner and at the time of the inspection had no arrangement in place to do so in the future. This potentially puts children at risk in the event of a medical emergency. Additionally the childminder does not have a clear knowledge of the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures and lacks training in the protection of children, which impacts upon her ability to act in children's best interests in the event of any concerns. Most of the required documentation is in place to promote children's welfare, including accurate records of children's attendance, their personal details and relevant parental consents. However, a record of risk assessment for the home and garden has not been completed and this is a specific requirement of the Early Years Foundation Stage.

The childminder provides a welcoming environment for the children with a suitable range of toys organised within their reach so that they can make choices in what they wish to do. The childminder clearly responds to children's individual needs, both by providing activities that reflect their interests and by drawing out learning from play activities that they often initiate for themselves. She ensures that she is fully aware of children's day-to-day needs with the effective use of two-way diaries and these, along with photographs, discussions and children's work, ensure parents are fully aware of what their children do and learn. Parents value the service provided by the childminder and recognise the good progress their children make across all of the areas of learning. The childminder places high emphasis on promoting children's social and emotional development and works well with other providers to ensure transitions are handled in a sensitive and supportive way.

The childminder has a limited knowledge of the Early Years Foundation Stage and has failed to implement some of the required changes to her practice. For example, she is unaware of her responsibilities under food hygiene legislation. Although she has many years experience, a lack of recent training means her

knowledge, specifically in relation to safeguarding and first aid, is not up-to-date. The childminder has addressed the safety issues raised at the last inspection. However, self-evaluation is largely superficial and does not support ongoing improvement.

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

Children are happy and settled in the childminder's care. She clearly knows the children well and plans games and activities that they enjoy and through which they learn. For example, a matching card game provides suitable opportunities for children to talk about what they see and to learn how to share and take turns. Children show increasing dexterity as they thread bobbins on to a string and older children demonstrate an ability to tie knots as they make their strings into necklaces. Young children stack bobbins and start to count how many they use. They recognise colours as they begin to sort buttons in a box. Children have good opportunities to be active; for example, as they chase paper butterflies and try to catch them in their nets. Small indoor ride-on toys encourage young children to be active and they learn to negotiate space as they move around the room. The childminder shows a good understanding of what children know and can do, and can explain clearly how she plans to build on their knowledge and skills. Children's achievements are recorded in their diaries and supported by photographs that are shared with parents. This demonstrates the good progress children make in the childminder's care. Children in the early years age group who attend school benefit from the childminder encouraging their reading or any other homework they may have. Books are readily available and children of all ages enjoy looking at these independently and also listening to the stories the childminder reads.

Children develop a suitable understanding of healthy lifestyles as they learn to follow good personal hygiene practices and enjoy a range of healthy foods and snacks. They recognise foods that are good for them and enjoy fresh fruit, such as, kiwi for a snack. They show an understanding of keeping themselves safe as young children ascend and descend stairs carefully and help to tidy away toys to avoid trips and falls. Children are very confident and demonstrate good social skills and behaviour. They frequently show care and kindness to others and respond positively to the childminder's clear guidance and praise. Through discussions and practical activities the children are learning to value others and to understand about the wider world. Children develop a good sense of belonging as they see their art work displayed in the home and eagerly explain what the picture is all about. They have active imaginations based around the opportunities to engage in role play and musical activities. Older children are fully involved in making their own memory books and get great pleasure from looking back on these, recalling friends and laughing at photographs of themselves when they were babies. They learn practical skills that prepare them well for the future.

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?	4
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement	4

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the Early Years Foundation Stage	4
The effectiveness of leadership and management in embedding ambition and driving improvement	4
The effectiveness with which the setting deploys resources	3
The effectiveness with which the setting promotes equality and diversity	2
The effectiveness of safeguarding	4
The effectiveness of the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement	4
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	3
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Outcomes for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage

Outcomes for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage	3
The extent to which children achieve and enjoy their learning	2
The extent to which children feel safe	4
The extent to which children adopt healthy lifestyles	3
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:

Not Met (with actions)

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

Not Met (with actions)

The registered provider does not meet the requirements of the compulsory and or voluntary part/s of the Childcare Register.

To comply with the requirements of the compulsory part of the Childcare Register, the registered person must take the following action/s by the specified date:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| • take action as specified for the early years section of the report (Welfare of the children being cared for) | 18/03/2011 |
| • take action as specified for the early years section of the report (Arrangements for safeguarding children) | 04/03/2011 |
| • keep a written statement of procedures to be followed in relation to complaints which relates to the requirements of the Childcare Register and which a parent makes in writing or by email (Procedures for dealing with complaints). | 04/03/2011 |

To comply with the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register, the registered person must take the following action/s by the specified date:

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| • take action as specified for the early years section of the report (Welfare of the children being cared for) | 18/03/2011 |
| • take action as specified for the early years section of the report (Arrangements for safeguarding children) | 04/03/2011 |
| • take action as for the compulsory part of the Childcare Register (Procedures for dealing with complaints). | 04/03/2011 |