

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY344557
Inspection date	09/03/2011
Inspector	Shazaad Ashad

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 2006 and she lives with her husband and two children aged 16 and 10-years-old in Newton Heath, Manchester. The ground floor, comprising of the conservatory playroom, lounge and dining area is used for childminding. The bathroom and one of the bedrooms on the ground floor are also available for childminding. There is a secure garden available for outdoor play. The childminder's home is close to local amenities, including a library, parks and shops.

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

The childminder has a level 3 qualifications in Children's Care, Learning and Development.

The childminder has three dogs on the premises.

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is good.

Children are offered a wide range of activities and opportunities within a homely and inclusive environment. The Early Years Foundation Stage framework is delivered through effective systems for evidencing children's learning and development. Close and strong partnerships with parents, ensures they are kept fully informed of all issues relating to their children's care and learning. The childminder has completed self-evaluation, in order to bring about further improvement to the provision, and outcomes for children. The childminder is committed and motivated to her work. She has addressed all recommendations from her last inspection and successfully obtained a level 3 qualification in childcare.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- extend and develop the children's assessment records to clearly show how all children achieve the next steps in their learning
- develop further a culture of accurate reflective practice and self-evaluation to identify priorities for the future.

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder fully understands her role in safeguarding children and has a very effective procedure for reporting any concerns, which is shared with parents. She has completed training in this area. She also has professional links with the local authority social work team and is experienced in relation to following through her safeguarding procedures. To further safeguard children, clear records of accidents are maintained and the childminder takes appropriate actions when incidents occur. Children are cared for in a homely environment, where risk assessments are carried out daily. Visitors to the home are checked and all adults, living in the home, have completed appropriate criminal record checks.

The conservatory playroom is used extensively for the whole range of activities including art and craft activities. The lounge provides them with a welcoming environment in which they are becoming independent and extremely confident. They enjoy a balance of both adult-led and child-initiated activities. For example, when reading books together and free play activities, having access to a wide range of age-appropriate toys and play materials. Additional items are stored in labelled boxes, which are well ordered and accessible. The childminder has made use of a grant to extend resources across all the areas learning, including creative play, mathematical thinking and being healthy. The childminder ensures planning of activities and opportunities are built around children's individual needs, wishes and their interests. The areas used provide plenty of space, and the increase in resources, further supports their learning and development.

The childminder has formed trusting relationships with parents and has built up effective partnerships through regularly sharing information. For example, newsletters are produced four times a year and valuable feedback is provided via questionnaires. Parents comment about their total satisfaction regarding services offered. For example, they comment 'she is the most precious person in my life and has done an excellent job'. Parents are consistently informed of activities and opportunities offered and undertaken. The daily diaries are used for children under one year and individual development and progress information includes the good use of photographs and written observations. Parents are involved in contributing to the children's assessment files and are guided by the information provided, on themes and principles of the Early Years Foundation Stage.

The childminder is committed to the continual improvement of her service. She has successfully addressed the previous recommendations around hygiene, fire evacuation procedures and records of children's attendance. As well as completing the level 3 training, she has completed numerous training courses in order to provide better outcomes for children. For example, quality assurance, equality, special educational needs, early education and the unique child. Partnership arrangements with other settings are being developed further to ensure consistency in learning. The childminder is aware that this is an area for further improvement.

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

The childminder interacts with children very well and children are motivated by the wide range of activities that are provided for them. For example, they show an interest in electronic a remote control game and are totally absorbed in playing with the controls, using the stop, start and go functions. They help change the batteries and use the binoculars to develop their understanding of distance and size. The childminder uses numerous activities as an opportunity to promote learning of mathematical concepts. For example, children proudly count out their numbers when prompted to count by the childminder. Children have a positive relationship with the childminder and approach her for reassurance after sleep. They also have a good relationship with their peers and after a rest, are confident to join in all the activities with ease. For example, using beads and shape sorters. Children develop their writing skills and make marks in a variety of ways. They thoroughly enjoy creative activities, such as, painting the crocodile and butterfly they have constructed using egg boxes. Children fully utilise the treasure baskets which contain a wide range of sensory materials. High priority is given to promoting the children's independence. As a result, the children delight in independently accessing the sand tray and exploring the pebbles and other textures in the sand. Communication, language and literacy skills and books play a very important part in the setting. They self-select from the playroom, looking at them by themselves or bringing them to the childminder's husband to read. They listen intently to the story, join in with their favourites and show surprise as they lift the flaps to reveal the pictures underneath. The children are happy and confident in the childminder's care and are very inquisitive. They ask lots of questions as they play and show an interest in role play, when they pretend to make snacks from the role play food basket. The children's achievements are recorded in their profiles. The childminder uses the tracker sheets and plots their learning and development using the Early Years Foundation Stage guidance. However, some of the assessment files are inconsistent and do not clearly show how the recording of their starting points are followed through to the next steps in the children's learning.

The childminder provides an inclusive environment where all children are welcomed and valued. Children are taught to respect and value each others' similarities and differences. They learn about other cultures, customs and disabilities as the childminder has a good quality books and resources to gently help them understand. Children have many and varied ways of learning about the wider world, for example, they have good opportunities to learn about places of interest through visits to the Police museum, another local museum and the library for story sessions.

Children are learning the importance of healthy lifestyles. They are encouraged with their own personal hygiene skills and confidently wash their hands before drying them on their individual towels. They are encouraged to eat healthily, and are provided with appealing and healthy foods. Snacks mainly comprise of fresh fruits. Drinking water is always available and within easy reach so children can help themselves.

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

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