

## Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique reference number</b>	EY363988
<b>Inspection date</b>	10/05/2011
<b>Inspector</b>	Sarah Rhodes
<b>Type of setting</b>	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 with her husband and children aged five and nine years in Sandbatch, Cheshire. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's home is used for childminding. They also have access to an enclosed garden for outside play. She has several chickens, one duck and some rabbits as pets.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children under eight years at any one time, no more than two of which may be in the early years age range. She is currently minding four children in this age group on a part-time basis. She also offers care to children aged over five years. The childminder is registered by Ofsted on the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register.

The childminder collects children from the local school and goes to several toddler groups regularly.

## The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is satisfactory.

The childminder aims to provide a home from home environment, with care that meets each individual child's needs. She has organised the main play area to provide a bright environment with easy access for children to a wide range of toys and activities. She works with parents to ensure she understands and accommodates any additional requirements the children may have. She has implemented the observation requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage, procedures for assessing each child's progress are still being developed. Currently she has not implemented a self-evaluation as a tool to identify areas for improvement and drive progress, this results in gaps, such as, the lack of written risk assessments for the premises. A wide range of policies are in place and ensure parents are well informed about how the childminder operates.

## What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

To meet the specific requirements of the EYFS, the registered person must:

- conduct and record risk assessments for the premises both inside and outside (Suitable premises, environment and equipment).
- 25/05/2011

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

- develop the observation recording to summarise children's progress towards

- the early learning goals in the six areas of learning, share this with parents and obtain their input to the records
- develop the use of self-evaluation as part of an internal review to inform planning of future improvements.

## **The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision**

Children are safeguarded to a satisfactory level. The childminder ensures that she has an adequate knowledge of child protection procedures, her ultimate role in reporting concerns and what records need to be kept. She has a written policy as a reference document. She has undertaken risk assessments for outings, but has not undertaken risk assessments for the premises. This means that although she has put many precautions in place to reduce risks for children these have not been documented in line with the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. Fire prevention equipment is in place and emergency evacuations have been practised with children, to enhance their ability to cope in an emergency. All adult household members have been notified to Ofsted and visitors are supervised.

The childminder has undertaken some self-evaluation in the past as part of courses she has attended. Her current aims for improvement are broad ambitions and a desire to attend training. She does not currently use self-evaluation as part of an organised internal review to inform planning of future improvements and monitor and drive development. However, the childminder has attended all the required courses and undertaken a home based assessment and gained her National Vocational Qualification in Childcare and Education.

The childminder has good relationships with the parents, she takes time to consider carefully how she will accommodate any specific parental request, for example, with regard to children's diets or sleep times. The childminder places much emphasis on the verbal exchanges with parents and they are confident to ask her advice, for example, when considering how to toilet train their child. She has a wide range of clear policies and parents have copies of these to read which they sign to acknowledge. This ensures that they are clear about how the childminder operates right from the beginning of the placement and they can refer back to these policies whenever they need clarification. Written parental permission is obtained, for example, for outings and to seek emergency medical advice and treatment. The childminder shares her observation files with parents, which extends their knowledge of some of the activities undertaken. The childminder is aware of the need to liaise with others who provide Early Years Foundation Stage provision for the children in her care. She understands the needs of the individual children she cares for and has organised her play space, to provide a bright play area, where toys are accessible from a range of cupboards and has a separate quiet sleep area. This ensures that no child is disadvantaged and all children have their needs met effectively.

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

The children benefit from a warm, homely atmosphere, where the childminder is very aware of their individual needs and attends promptly to them. The childminder takes time and care to record brief notes of some of the children's achievements these are supported by photographs all of which are mounted with attention to detail in scrapbooks. She has linked these to the aspects of the six areas of learning and has a growing confidence in her knowledge of the Early Years Foundation Stage and its use in helping children progress. Currently there is no easy way for parents or the childminder to monitor how the children are progressing towards all aspects of the early learning goals or for parents to contribute their own thoughts to their child's profile. This impacts on the childminder's ability to monitor that a full range of activities covering all aspects of the six areas of learning are being provided for children and that information from parents on children's development is captured and acted on.

Children are settled, happy and confident in the childminder's home. She ensures an inviting range of activities are provided and the children are encouraged to select toys from the low cupboards in the main play area. They enjoy lots of conversation to encourage their speech and enjoy mark making with a variety of pencils, crayons and paints. Books, rhymes and songs are used to encourage an enjoyment of words and rhythm. Counting and identifying colour and shape are woven into the daily routines, for example, when playing with and counting cars. Children have access to larger equipment in the local parks, giving them opportunities to develop their balancing and climbing skills, but fresh air and outdoor play are also encouraged by frequent use of the garden. The natural world is explored during daily walks in the local area, as well as when playing in the garden and activities, such as, collecting eggs that have been laid by the chickens and helping in the vegetable garden really expand children's understanding and knowledge of the world.

The childminder provides a healthy diet, which includes vegetables and eggs that the children have been involved in growing or collecting. They are enthusiastic about learning to feed themselves. General procedures about hygiene, both personal and household hygiene, allows children to enjoy a clean and healthy environment. Even young children understand about hygiene routines, for example, using wipes on their hands before snack time. Children are also encouraged to keep themselves safe, they learn about road safety and rules for being near roads. The childminder manages the children's behaviour in a positive way praising the children, using distraction and explaining why certain restrictions are in place. Children are making good progress in developing skills for the future and the move to nursery or school when the time comes.

## 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

<b>How well does the setting meet the needs of the children in the Early Years Foundation Stage?</b>	3
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement	3

### The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

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

<b>Outcomes for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage</b>	2
The extent to which children achieve and enjoy their learning	2
The extent to which children feel safe	3
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:

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:

- undertake a risk assessment of the premises and equipment at least once a year (Suitability and safety of premises and equipment)(also applies to the voluntary part of the Childcare Register). 25/05/2011

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 in the Childcare Register section of the report (Suitability and safety of premises and equipment). 25/05/2011