

Inspection report for early years provision

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Inspection date	20/05/2011
Inspector	Lisa Paisley
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 2000. He lives with his family in a house in Grays, Essex. All areas of the childminder's house are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children and is currently minding nine children in the early years age group all on a part-time basis. He minds with a co-minder, and together they may care for a maximum of eight children. The childminder has joint responsibility with the co-minder for the childminding practice. The childminder also offers care to children aged over five years to 11 years.

He walks or drives to local schools to take and collect children and takes children on regular outings to the local parks and library. The family has four rabbits as pets.

This provision is registered by Ofsted on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association (NCMA).

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is good.

Outcomes for children in the early years age range are good as the childminder effectively understands the development needs of young children and individual learning styles, and also his responsibilities regarding the Early Years Foundation Stage. The childminder provides a positive male role model for children within a safe, family-friendly environment. Children's emotional needs are effectively supported and nurtured, ensuring all children make a positive contribution. Self-evaluation has not yet been formally developed to ensure continuous improvements are sustained.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- ensure at least one person who has a current paediatric first aid certificate is on the premises at all times when children are present (Early Years Register, compulsory part of the Childcare Register, voluntary part of the Childcare Register).

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

- develop self-evaluation systems to ensure continuous improvements are sustained.

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

Documentation is in place, including policies, procedures and children's records, and effectively organised for the safe management of childminding. Children are effectively safeguarded as robust procedures, such as the safeguarding policy and vetting procedures, are in place to protect them. The childminder has a clear understanding of his role in protecting children and clearly understands safeguarding practices as an independent worker. Risk assessments are comprehensive and they are implemented on daily basis within the home and when going on trips out. All required written parental consents and health details are in place and first aid equipment is effectively maintained, however, the childminder's first aid certificate has expired, which may compromise children's welfare.

The physical environment, daily routines, resources and equipment are effectively organised to ensure children's individual needs are consistently met and that they are comfortable and secure within the family environment. Resources effectively cover the six areas of learning and they are well-organised to promote both independence and choice. Children are cared for in an environment that is fully inclusive, comfortable and peaceful, promoting children's emotional well-being and confidence. Since the last inspection the childminder has addressed the previous recommendation, however, self-evaluation systems are yet to be developed to ensure continuous improvements are sustained.

Partnership with parents is effective as good information is exchanged on a regular basis and there are clearly written contracts and consent agreements regarding the individual care needs of the children. Parents receive policies and procedures, and verbal information is exchanged on a regular basis. Developmental profiles are shared with parents to further ensure that they are regularly updated about their children's progress. Parents' verbal and complimentary comments include, 'a fantastic childminder, childre's development is good and they are provided with a very good range of activities'. The childminder has good systems in place to effectively share information with local schools and early years settings children attend to promote transitions and continuity of care.

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

Planning, observation and assessment arrangements are fully integrated and are cyclical, ensuring children's developmental progress fully informs activity plans. As a result, activities and play experiences that are provided are closely tailored towards children's individual needs and are effectively challenging. Children's individual profiles provide parents with a good textual narrative of children's developmental progress and this is combined with the Developmental Matters

framework to ensure effective monitoring of children's ongoing development. Overall, children are making good progress considering their capabilities and starting points.

Children are very happy, settled and secure as the childminder effectively forms good relationships with them and successfully creates an environment that values all individual children's needs and interests. All children settle quickly into the home as the childminder provides individual attention, capturing and successfully maintaining their interest. For example, they make rockets, which develops shared and sustained thinking, consolidating and extending their learning. The childminder is knowledgeable about each child's abilities and what they enjoy doing as he takes time to get to know their individual needs and preferences. For example, active physical play and also quieter activities that help children focus on their play. Children's creative imaginations and self-expressions are developed through the good range of creative activities, and they particularly enjoy marble painting and sand play.

Regular trips are made to the local park and beach, and they particularly enjoy the soft play centre, where there are both creative and music activities provided for the children. They learn about the natural world through garden activities, such as planting fruit and vegetables and also feeding the birds, when children enjoy observing different breeds of birds. Children behave very well as the childminder has a clear understanding of how to positively manage their behaviour and there is a good focus on praise and encouragement, to which children respond well. As a result, children are happy, secure and confident in their care and they are very cooperative. Children learn about the wider world and cultural diversity through the range of resources and planned celebrations, for example, Christmas, Diwali, Saint David's Day, Pancake Day, Remembrance Day and The Royal Wedding. Older children who attend the provision after school have choices about their play, and they particularly enjoy creative activities and going to the local park.

Older children know the safety rules in the home and the younger children learn about being safe through daily routines and gentle reminders from the childminder. As a result, they move around the home with skill and confidence. All children practise regular fire drills and the procedure has been updated to include a safety rope. They also know the safety procedures for getting into and out of the car and why they have to wait. Children enjoy a range of healthy snacks and meals and the childminder works with parents on the provision of lunches. Children particularly enjoy picnic lunches where they are able to sit in comfort and socialise with their friends while having their meal. Overall, the childminder successfully promotes children's understanding of healthy lifestyles and personal safety.

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	3

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	3
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

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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:

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:

- ensure at least one person who has a current paediatric first aid certificate is on the premises at all times when children are present (Early Years Register, compulsory part of the Childcare Register, voluntary part of the Childcare Register). 23/07/2011

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:

- ensure at least one person who has a current paediatric first aid certificate is on the premises at all times when children are present (Early Years Register, compulsory part of the Childcare Register, voluntary part of the Childcare Register). 23/07/2011