

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	312155
Inspection date	27/09/2011
Inspector	Angela Cuffe

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 1997. She lives with her husband and adult daughter in Stalybridge, Tameside, close to shops, parks, schools and public transport links. The whole of the childminder's home is used for childminding purposes and there is an enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children under eight years at any one time, no more than three of which may be in the early years age range. The childminder is registered with Ofsted on the Early Years Register and both parts of the Childcare Register. She is currently minding eight children, one of which is in the early years age range.

The childminder collects children from the local school. She has a bird, fish and three tortoises as pets.

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy and well settled in the welcoming and homely environment. They are secure and enjoy learning about the local environment and the world around them. A well-developed knowledge of each child's development needs makes sure that the childminder successfully promotes children's welfare. The partnerships with parents is maintained through daily discussions. Children progress generally well, and learn through play. Regular self-evaluation by the childminder means that priorities for development are continuous, resulting in a provision that responds to all user needs. Areas for improvement have been identified and particularly focus on the observation and assessment process and updating required documentation as well as developing links with other providers of the Early Years Framework.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- request written permission from parents to seek emergency medical advice or treatment (Safeguarding and promoting children's welfare). 11/10/2011

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

- make systematic observations and assessments of each child's achievements, interests and learning styles, and use these to identify learning priorities and plan relevant and motivating learning experiences
- develop links with other providers of the Early Years Foundation Stage to

ensure continuity and coherence of children's learning and development

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder gives priority to safeguarding children. She has a good understanding of child protection and her responsibilities if she is concerned about a child's welfare. Children's health, safety and well-being are maintained due to the implementation of some policies and procedures. Risk assessments on the premises, and also for outings, ensure that safety is monitored and reviewed. Fire drills are practised regularly, which ensures children understand what to do should the need to evacuate the premises arise. All required records and documentation are in place. However, written parental permission to seek emergency medical advice or treatment has not been sought and is a breach of requirements.

The childminder actively promotes equality and diversity in her practice to ensure all children have an understanding of the way other people live. A good range of resources are deployed well and ensures that children have free access to them. The childminder shares information verbally on a daily basis with parents to keep them informed of their Child's achievements. Links with schools and other providers of the Early years has not been achieved and impacts on children's continuous learning and development.

The childminder has a basic knowledge of the Early Years Foundation Stage framework. Observation and assessment of each child's progress has not been achieved, which means that although the childminder is aware of the children's learning needs and confidently describes them verbally, parents and other interested parties are unable to see the progress children are making. This has a negative impact on the planning and learning and development each child receives. The childminder has a paediatric first aid certificate and has attended other relevant training courses since the last inspection which impacts on the continuous improvement of the provision.

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

Children are happy and settled. The childminder's supportive and caring manner enables children to feel safe and secure and form trusting relationships. Children are eager to attend and make steady progress as they play with the range of toys and equipment. Emphasis is placed on children learning through play, exploration and fun. There is a good selection of interesting and stimulating toys and activities available for children to choose from. This ensures all children are able to participate in activities and, as a result, they make progress in their development and are motivated to learn. Children are enthusiastic and independent. The relaxed, welcoming and homely environment enables them to freely express themselves and enjoy their day.

Children are confident and relate well with each other and the childminder. They

behave extremely well and express their happiness with laughter and smiles. Children understand what is expected in order to keep themselves and others safe. Their understanding of safety issues is maintained through regular discussions, fire drills and road safety. Children are independent and interact well with the childminder. They access books, dolls houses, puzzles, computers and magnets, which promotes their problem-solving and reasoning. Children develop a positive attitude towards diversity and take part in activities linked to various festivals. For example, they have access to a range of dressing-up clothes, books, dolls, puzzles and musical instruments. Children develop a keen interest in nature during their time in the garden, trips to the park and walks in the countryside. They also access a good range of large equipment in the garden and at the park, which helps them to develop control and coordination over their bodies. Children eagerly express their creativity as they regularly access a range of materials to create pictures, such as paint, wool, pens, glitter and coloured paper.

Children demonstrate an understanding of the importance of following personal hygiene routines and healthy eating. They have opportunities to engage in a range of physical activities, both indoors and out. Consequently they gain a sound knowledge of how regular exercise impacts on maintaining a healthy lifestyle. The childminder provides healthy home-cooked meals for the children and fruit or toast for snacks. They have continuous access to drinking water to enable them to satisfy their thirst when needed.

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?	3
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	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	3

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	3
The extent to which children feel safe	2
The extent to which children adopt healthy lifestyles	3
The extent to which children make a positive contribution	3
The extent to which children develop skills for the future	3

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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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