

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY396631
Inspection date	03/10/2011
Inspector	Lynne Naylor
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 2009. She lives with her husband and two children aged eight and four years old in Eccleston, Chorley. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding. The bathroom is on the first floor and is also used. The rear garden is available for outdoor play. The childminder walks to toddler groups and is able to take children to and collect them from local schools. The family has two dogs as pets.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children under eight years at any one time, of whom no more than three may be in the early years age range. There are currently two children attending who are within the Early Years Foundation Stage. The childminder also offers care to one child aged over five years. She is registered on the Early Years Register and on both the voluntary and compulsory parts of the Childcare Register. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association. She holds an appropriate early years qualification at level 3. She is an accredited member of an approved childminding network and receives support from the local authority.

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is satisfactory.

The childminder meets children's unique needs in an inclusive, accessible home. Documentation is of mixed quality with some out of date references in policies and some weaknesses in the systems of risk assessment. As a result two specific legal requirements are not being fully met. However, children make good progress in their learning and development, supported by effective verbal communication between the childminder and parents. The childminder has not yet cared for any children who also attend another early years provision. However, she has a secure understanding of the importance of working in partnership when the need arises to support continuity of care and education. The childminder demonstrates a sound capacity to maintain continuous improvement. She reflects on her practice and identifies suitable areas for development.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- review the system of risk assessment to ensure that outdoor and indoor spaces are safe and extend the risk assessment record to include anything with which a child may come into contact (Suitable premises, environment and equipment) 10/10/2011
- review and make changes to the safeguarding children policy that is provided to parents to bring it in line 10/10/2011

with Local Safeguarding Children Board guidance and procedures (Safeguarding and promoting children's welfare) (also applies to both parts of the Childcare Register).

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

- refine the procedure and record keeping system for dealing with concerns and complaints from parents in order to clearly reflect the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage and review all policies and update where necessary any outdated references
- develop the self-evaluation systems and engage parents in the process.

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder has a sound awareness of child protection issues and how to work with other agencies. This is because she recently refreshed her knowledge of the indicators of abuse and how to work with appropriate agencies. However, her written procedure relating to child protection is not useful as it is not in line with the Local Safeguarding Children Board guidance and procedures. It is not informative when shared with parents as it contains inaccurate references and information. A specific legal requirement relating to risk assessment is not fully met. The childminder frequently signs and dates a written risk assessment and avidly ticks a daily safety checklist. However, hazards that are not listed in the checklist are not noticed and removed in the visual check before children arrive. Therefore, the risk assessment process is not fully effective, although, children are satisfactorily supervised to keep them safe. The childminder efficiently manages her service through maintaining clear record keeping systems relating to attendance, medicine administration and accidents. These ensure children are kept safe, protected and supported. All adults who live in the house have undergone appropriate clearance procedures, which help to maintain children's safety. The childminder holds a valid first aid certificate, which means she is competent to take appropriate action in the event of an accident.

Good use is made of space on the ground floor to provide a wide range of different activities and experiences. Good quality resources are varied, easily accessible and used well to support children's learning and development. A variety of resources and activities assist the children to learn effectively about the wider world. Children enjoy daily opportunities to be outdoors. They go for walks in the local area or play in the garden or visit local parks and places of interest.

The childminder has positive working relationships with parents. They verbally exchange useful information and parents may read a range of written policies and procedures. Overall, the policies are workable, although, some, for example, those entitled 'accident policy' and 'notifiable diseases' contain inaccurate and out of date references. This limits the quality of the shared information. Similarly, parents receive little information about how to make a complaint and how this will be

handled in line with the Early Years Foundation Stage. Parents look at their child's learning journey file, which contains photographs and written observations that demonstrate their child's good progress. Information that parents know about their child is not yet linked with the childminder's observations and assessments to provide a full picture of their child's learning and development. However, the childminder has devised, but not yet implemented, a system to obtain information from parents for inclusion in their child's file. The childminder has not yet had reason to try to establish partnerships with other providers or professionals. However, she clearly understands the benefits of working in partnership with others to ensure progression and continuity for individual children.

The childminder holds a recognised childcare qualification and frequently meets with other childminders to keep her skills and knowledge up to date. The childminder has made good progress to develop a sound service. She has become a member of the childminder network. The evaluation of the setting is not yet set against robust criteria. However, the childminder reflects on her practice and is open to new ideas and strategies to improve outcomes for children. Opportunities to actively gain parents' views about the setting and any suggestions for improvement have not been fully explored.

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

The childminder's main strength is the way she assesses and monitors each child's development and progress. Her system is highly systematic resulting in well targeted and focused planning of resources for all children. As a result, outcomes for children are good and they make good progress towards the early learning goals. The childminder has a good awareness of the Early Years Foundation Stage learning and development requirements. She visually observes children at play and is able to identify if children have any difficulties.

Children's individual health, physical and dietary needs are well met. They eat healthy lunches, such as hot pot or food provided by their parents. Children easily help themselves to drinks, when thirsty, as their cups are kept accessible. Children enjoy themed experiences that are well linked and successfully promote their awareness of hygiene, safety and health. For example, they taste different fruits during a planned activity at the local children's centre. They play lotto with pictures of different foods. They look closely at foods and print with vegetables. They know how vegetables are grown and visit the farm shop to buy fresh vegetables. For example, a young child is keen to show the pumpkin he has grown from seed. Everyday, children exercise in the fresh air, which is good for their health. They play in the garden, use equipment at the park or go for walks in the local area. They acquire a good awareness of the seasons and nature as they collect items, such as conkers and acorns.

Children demonstrate a clear sense of belonging in this home. They show curiosity and happily explore the variety of textures in the treasure baskets or squeeze and squash jelly and play dough. Children are beginning to learn about their own

cultures and festivals and those of others as they enjoy related craft activities, such as at Chinese New Year and Harvest Festival. They behave well and demonstrate polite, courteous behaviour, as they say 'please' and 'thank you' appropriately during play activities. Children gain a sense of security as they follow routines and learn to use a range of equipment safely. They learn to safely evacuate a building in an emergency, as they practise every month.

Children learn particularly well through play, everyday experiences and an increasing range of interesting outings. Children develop learning and social skills that equip them well for the future. They learn to share and take turns with others as they visit local groups and meet up with other children. They demonstrate growing skills in literacy and numeracy. They acquire a love of books as they listen to stories read by the childminder and regularly visit the library to borrow books. They practise early writing skills as they make marks with crayons on paper and on an easel board with chalk. The childminder skilfully introduces new vocabulary, including those relating to numbers and shapes as they play. For example, a young child demonstrates a growing interest in shape and space as he repeatedly tries to fit smaller cars and toys into a larger vehicle. Young children demonstrate their understanding of technology as they operate button activated toys and talk about the toy car needing new batteries to make it work.

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	2
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

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	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:

- update the following information and make available to parents: copies of the written statements of safeguarding procedures and complaints procedures (Providing information to parents) (also applies to the voluntary part of the Childcare Register). 10/10/2011

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 compulsory part of the Childcare Register (Providing information to parents). 10/10/2011