

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY283783
Inspection date	18/10/2011
Inspector	Kathy Leatherbarrow
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 2004. She lives with her husband and two grown-up children in St Helens, Merseyside. Children use the playroom and kitchen of the childminder's home for their care and activities. There is an enclosed garden for children's outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six 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 five children attending who are within the Early Years Foundation Stage. The childminder also offers care to children aged over five years. There are currently seven children on roll. She is registered on the Early Years Register and the voluntary and compulsory parts of the Childcare Register.

The childminder receives support from the local authority. She is a member of the National Childminding Association and local childminder network.

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is good.

A good knowledge of each child's individual needs makes sure that the childminder successfully promotes children's welfare and learning. Children are safe and secure, however, some documentation lacks required detail. Partnerships with parents are highly effective in supporting children's requirements, and other partnerships are developing. As a result, children progress well in their learning and development. The childminder strives for excellence and makes good use of regular self-evaluation and ongoing professional development to make well-placed improvements and increase the quality of care and learning.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- ensure accurate information is obtained on who has parental responsibility for each child
- ensure effective continuity and progression for children who attend more than one setting by sharing relevant information.

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

Children are effectively safeguarded because the childminder has a good knowledge of the indicators of abuse and the procedure to follow should she have a concern about a child. She has used her training to update her written policy document. The home is safe and well maintained and the children's safety is a priority. Risk assessments are detailed and comprehensive. Children learn about

keeping themselves safe through discussion about road safety and how to use large outdoor equipment safely, and practising the fire evacuation procedure.

All documentation is in place and very well organised to allow ease of access should the need arise. The childminder knows families well, however, information about who has parental responsibility for each child is not fully in place. Confidential documentation is stored appropriately to maintain security. The childminder strives for excellence in all she does and regularly monitors and evaluates the effectiveness of her provision. Children and parents are all involved in the process and their suggestions are catered for where necessary.

Children benefit from a warm, bright and airy environment. Toys and resources are readily accessible from some low-level storage and what she puts out each day. She also ensures that these are rotated to develop children's interests. Children develop an understanding of others as the childminder provides a variety of resources and activities for them. For example, they complete different crafting items connected with the celebrations and festivals.

Parents enjoy strong relationships with the childminder. They are kept fully updated about their child following the flexible settling-in sessions. The childminder has effective systems in place for communicating with parents. She has produced a range of written policies that she gives to parents so that they know about her practices. She shares the well-presented children's 'learning journeys' with them, involving them in their child's learning.

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

Children thrive in the stimulating and exciting play area, both inside and outside. They move freely among the activities, accessing resources independently or requesting others, such as the trains and track. Outside they access a climbing frame, slide, bikes, trikes and creative play, such as sand and water. The childminder talks to them continually about what they are doing and extends their understanding and learning through effective questioning. They make marks using a range of tools and implements and enjoy making patterns and potato printing. This develops their control and forms the basis for writing. They sing with gusto into microphones and use instruments as they dance and move to music, and enjoy making pictures from conkers, acorns and leaves that they have collected on their travels. An understanding of number is brought into play scenarios, such as how many chairs do they need for everyone while constructing their bus in role play. They learn about the diverse nature of society through reading stories and interacting with the good selection of resources.

Developmental records of the children are effective and show that they are making good progress towards the early learning goals. Initial information is used to form a starting point and children's development is then tracked through observations linked effectively to stages of development. Keepsake folders of photographs show children from their first day and are a detailed record of their development.

Children are safe and well cared for. The childminder places great emphasis on safety and reinforces this with the children at regular intervals, both on and off the premises. Children clearly have very close attachments to the childminder and look to her for reassurance. She is always on hand should the need arise. They help to tidy away toys when they have finished with them and the childminder helps them to use the equipment safely. Children eat a wide range of home-made, healthy and nutritious meals and snacks. They thoroughly enjoy the chicken, peppers, mushrooms and tomato pasta for lunch. Children's individual requirements, likes and dislikes are also carefully considered and their needs fully met. Children wash their hands before and after meals to prevent the spread of infection. Children behave extremely well and the childminder offers lots of explanations about why things are happening. There are clear rules and boundaries and children respond very well to her requests. They are helped to learn to share through calm requests from the childminder and show great pride and happiness when praised.

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	3
The effectiveness of the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement	2
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	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	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:	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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