

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY427830
Inspection date	21/11/2011
Inspector	Susan Parker

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.

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Description of the childminding

The childminder registered in 2011. She lives with her husband and two children aged one and six years in Cheshunt, Hertfordshire. The whole of the ground floor and the first floor bathroom of the childminder's house are used for childminding purposes and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. There is level access to the premises. The family has a tank containing pet fish.

The childminder provides care on each weekday during term-time and school holidays. She is registered on the Early Years Register to care for a maximum of two children in the early years age range. She also offers care to children aged over five years and this provision is registered on the compulsory part of the Childcare Register. There were no minded children present at the time of the inspection.

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is satisfactory.

The childminder has a sound knowledge and understanding of each child's individual needs through interaction, observation and links with parents. Links with other settings that children attend are developing. Children's safety and security are adequately promoted, enabling children to adopt safe practices. Most of the required documentation supports the childminder's sound practice.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- ensure that the record of the risk assessment is reviewed regularly and maintained
- ensure that the safeguarding policy includes the procedure to follow if an allegation is made against the childminder or her family.

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder has a satisfactory understanding of safeguarding children. She has a written policy and is fully aware of her responsibility to refer any concerns she may have about children's welfare. However, this written information does not include what action to take if an allegation was made against the childminder or her family. She carries out risk assessments of the home each day and carries out a visual risk assessment of the premises annually, however, the records of the risk assessments are incomplete. All adults working or living in the home have been checked to ensure that they are suitable to be in contact with children.

The childminder shares information well with parents through notice boards, a portfolio of written policies and records of observations on children's progress. Through regular discussions, the childminder has established a positive working relationship with all groups of parents and carers, arranging children to be picked up from other establishments as required. She is beginning to reflect on her practice in order to make improvements which will have a positive impact on the satisfactory outcomes for children.

The childminder provides a service that is inclusive for all children and their families. This ensures that all children get the support they need, enabling them to make adequate progress in their learning and development. Partnerships with other professionals involved with children in her care are evolving. The childminder makes good use of routines and incidental opportunities to support and promote children's learning. For example, she has a pictorial timetable so children can see, from the picture, what will happen next. Bright wall displays support children's recognition of number and a calendar with a weather chart encourages children to talk about days and seasons.

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

The environment is exciting, interesting and conducive to learning. Resources, such as, furniture, equipment and toys are of high quality and are at child's height so they can access toys and resources for themselves. Children's individual achievement records show that they make satisfactory progress in all areas of their learning and development. The orderly organisation of the activities provided reflects rich, varied and imaginative experiences that meet the needs of all children. Assessment through regular observations is appropriate and the information gained is adequately used to form future planning. The childminder has a detailed understanding of the learning and development requirements and the individual interests and capabilities of the children.

The childminder provides a very good range of developmentally appropriate activities and uses resources, such as, the local children's centre to support children's holistic experiences. The childminder is aware of developing effective partnerships between all settings that children attend to support a coherence of learning and development. The childminder plans activities to enable children to learn about the similarities and differences between themselves and their peers. The childminder ensures that she is fully inclusive to provide equality of opportunity for each child and their families.

Children's good health is actively promoted as the childminder ensures that individual towels are allocated to each child. This promotes prevention of cross contamination of germs and enhances children's understanding of self care. The childminder incorporates topics on health and hand washing so that children learn how to live a healthy life style. Regular emergency evacuation drills and routine road safety discussions also support children's awareness of how to keep themselves safe.

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	3
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	3
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