

Inspection report for early years provision

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| Unique reference number | 322283 |
| Inspection date | 10/11/2011 |
| Inspector | Gillian Sutherland |
| 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 1993. She lives with her husband in the Aigburth area of Liverpool. Children have access to all areas on the ground floor, apart from the dining room and the children have no access to the upstairs. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The childminder is able to take and collect children from local schools. The childminder has one cat.

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 11 children on roll, three of whom are within the Early Years Foundation Stage, all of whom attend on a part-time basis. The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and on both the voluntary and compulsory parts of the Childcare Register. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is satisfactory.

The childminder provides a safe and welcoming environment. Children are very relaxed and settled in an inclusive environment where their individual needs are met. The childminder has developed a working partnership with the parents of the children she is asked to care for and if required she is fully aware of the need to extend this partnership with other providers delivering the Early Years Foundation Stage. The childminder has begun to evaluate her provision, identifying not only her strengths but also areas for improvement. However, the omission in meeting a legal requirement had not been identified. Consequently, the childminder has a satisfactory capacity to maintain continuous improvement.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- ensure that Ofsted is informed, at the earliest opportunity, of any significant changes (Suitable People) (also applies to both parts of the Childcare Register).
- 24/11/2011

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

- develop further the new format for risk assessment documentation and ensure that it is dated and signed appropriately
- develop a culture of reflective practice and self-evaluation to continually look for ways to improve the quality of the learning, development and care offered that will improve the quality of provision for all children.

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

Children are safeguarded as the childminder has a sound knowledge and understanding of the child protection procedures and is aware of the signs and symptoms of abuse. She has a written safeguarding policy, which fully complies with current guidance. The childminder has the contact details of the appropriate agencies to contact should she have any concerns about a child in her care. She has taken many steps, both inside and outside, to ensure children's are safe. The childminder has recently reviewed the format for maintaining the risk assessments and she is aware that to fully comply with current legislation each of these documents must be dated and signed. The childminder has omitted to inform Ofsted of changes to the persons living on the premises. She explained that her daughter left home earlier this year and she did not inform Ofsted. This is a breach of the welfare requirements. Other paperwork legally required, is in place and the written policies gives parents an insight into how their child's care is organised. The childminder has a procedure to follow in the event of a fire or emergency and children have participated in fire drills thus ensuring they can leave the premises quickly and safely in the event of a fire or an emergency.

The childminder does not currently care for children who have special educational needs and/or disabilities. However, she fully understands the importance of working with outside agencies, when required to ensure the needs of the children are met. Books and discussion between childminder and children raise children's awareness of the different abilities and needs of others, not only in their local community but also in the wider world. The childminder incorporates into her activity programme the celebration of cultural festivals.

The childminder demonstrates her commitment to developing her service by attending additional training. Her certificates for paediatric first aid, safeguarding and food hygiene are available for parents to look at. Children are well settled and enjoy their daily outings to the local park and the activities planned to meet their individual learning needs. The partnership with parents significantly contributes to meeting the needs of the children. The childminder seeks the views of both parents and children about the service she provides and the completed questionnaires; provide her with very positive feedback.

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

The childminder's warm and caring approach towards the children helps them feel settled and supported. She ensures that the resources are stored in such a way that promotes their independence. Children freely self-select which toys they want to play with or which activities they want to participate in and they are confident to approach the childminder when they require want her help or support. The skilful childminder responds promptly to their needs. Children enjoy accessing the different coloured tubs of play dough. They chatter freely to each other about the

different texture and are gently reminded to be careful as they use the small cutting tools or shape cutters. Children enjoy a varied range of art and craft activities including colouring pictures and using stencils to draw round and create their works of art. Some examples of the art and craft work belonging to the children in the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework are kept in their development files whilst other pieces are proudly taken home at the end of the day. The childminder ensures that all children are given praise and encouragement as they succeed in completing, for example, their puzzle books or their artwork. The childminder is a very good role model, as she offers plenty of praise for their efforts and acknowledges when they are kind to one another. Included in the activity programme is the celebration of different cultural festivals and the childminder uses these to extend the knowledge they have gained of such festivals in school.

Children learn to play together and take turns as they access one of the many games provided by the childminder with the older children observed helping the younger ones. The childminder provides the children with activities that complement activities undertaken at school. They enjoy baking activities and enjoy the weighing and measuring of the ingredients. Children benefit from enjoying healthy snacks and lunches and there is always fresh fruit available to them at any time. Children are offered a choice of different fruits and they quickly come in from school and settle down to enjoy this snack. The childminder and children walk to and from school every day and the highlight of the afternoon walk is, weather permitting their fun and play sessions in the park. They benefit daily, from the opportunity to enjoy fresh air and exercise as they access the swings and enjoy the wider open play spaces to run about in. During these walks and outings children learn to keep themselves safe as they talk with the childminder about stranger danger and participate in good road safety practises. In the childminder's garden they access other outdoor games and develop their skills in counting and balancing as they participate in a game of skittles and they also enjoy accessing such equipment as hoops and play netball.

The childminder has a satisfactory knowledge of the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework, which she uses to provide children with a range of age-appropriate activities. She recognises the importance of play and plans a balance of adult-led and child-initiated activities. Systems for observation and assessment of children's learning and development have begun and learning files are in place for children in the early years age range.

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

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| 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

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| 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

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| 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

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| 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:

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:

- take action as specified in the early years section of the report (Changes to people). 24/11/2011

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 early years section of the report (Changes to people). 24/11/2011