

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY422808
Inspection date	23/11/2011
Inspector	Cordalee Harrison
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 registered in 2011. She is registered on the Early Years Register and both the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. The childminder works from domestic premises in Fishermead, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire. Three adult household members also live at the address. Childminding activities are contained to the ground and first floor of the premises, where children have access to the kitchen diner, living room a bedroom and washing and toilet facilities. There is a garden at the rear of the premises for children's outdoor play. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children under eight years at any one time. Currently, there are nine children on roll, of these five are in the early years age group. The childminder is registered to provide overnight care for two children under eight years at any one time.

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is inadequate.

The childminder is in breach of a number of legal requirements that impact on children's health, safety and welfare. She does not gain prior written consent for administering medication to children or keep records of medication administered. She has not gained written permission from parents for seeking emergency treatment and does not keep an accurate record of the times children are in her care. In addition, unvetted adults live in the household and children stay overnight. The childminder does not observe and assess children's progress or plan for their future learning and developmental needs. In addition resources are poor and do not inspire children to want to play. The childminder shares some appropriate information with parents, however, they are not informed of their child's progress or about some of the policies the childminder must implement in order to protect children's well-being. Self-evaluation is weak and does not identify key areas of weakness and the childminder does not demonstrate a suitable capacity to maintain ongoing improvements.

Overall, the early years provision requires significant improvement. The registered person is given a Notice to Improve that sets out actions to be carried out.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

To comply with the requirements of the EYFS the registered person must take the following action by the specified date:

- obtain prior written permission for each and every medicine from parents before any medicine is given (Safeguarding and promoting children's welfare)(also 27/12/2011

- applies to both parts of the Childcare Register)
- keep a written record of all medicines administered to children, and inform parents (Safeguarding and promoting children's welfare) (also applies to both parts of the Childcare Register) 27/12/2011
- plan and provide experiences which are appropriate to each child's stage of development as they progress towards the early learning goals (Organisation) 06/12/2011
- undertake sensitive observational assessment in order to plan to meet young children's individual needs (Organisation) 06/12/2011
- request written permission, at the time of the child's admission to the provision, to the seeking of any necessary emergency medical advice or treatment in the future (Safeguarding and promoting children's welfare) 27/12/2011
- provide information to parents regarding policies and procedures, in particular the policy on administering medication (Safeguarding and promoting children's welfare) 06/12/2011
- ensure toys and equipment are suitable for their purpose (Suitable premises, environment and equipment) (Also applies to both parts of the Childcare Register) 06/12/2011
- maintain a daily record of the names of the children looked after on the premises and their hours of attendance (Documentation) (also applies to both parts of the Childcare Register) 27/12/2011
- ensure adults looking after children or having unsupervised access to them are suitable to do so (Suitable People)(also applies to both parts of the Childcare Register). 27/12/2011

To improve the early years provision the registered person should:

- develop the use of self-evaluation to further identify the setting's strength and priorities for development that will improve the quality of the provision for all children.

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

Arrangements for safeguarding children are inadequate. The childminder has notified Ofsted of changes to people in the household who are over the age of 16 years. However, at the date of inspection suitability checks had not been completed by Ofsted and as children are cared for overnight, unchecked adults have unsupervised access to children. The childminder has an awareness of some aspects of child protection issues and the procedures to follow if she has concerns about a child. However, the childminder administers medication to children without

prior written parental permission and she does not keep a record of medication administered to children. In addition she has not requested parental permission for the seeking of emergency medical treatment and she does not maintain an accurate record of when the children are in her care. These are breaches of specific legal requirements and put children's health, welfare and safety at risk.

The childminder maintains the required documentation about the children, such as their names, addresses and dates of births. The childminding premises are clean and well maintained and the childminder helps children develop appropriate hygiene habits, such as washing hands before eating. The childminder uses risk assessments appropriately to identify and minimize potential hazards to children. Therefore she maintains a safe environment for children indoors and outside. The childminder's safety precautions are suitable, for example, stairs gates are in appropriate places and children do not have access to hazardous substances. She does not currently allow the children to use the rear garden, because she recognises that it needs improvement. The childminder has practised fire evacuation drills with the children and her fire safety equipment is in working order.

The childminder does not use the process of self-evaluation effectively to monitor her practice. Therefore, she has not identified key areas of weakness, including safeguarding children and in promoting children's learning and development. In addition the provision is very poorly resourced and children do not have adequate toys and equipment to play with that helps promote their development in all areas of learning. The childminder does not, therefore, demonstrate a suitable capacity to make ongoing improvements.

The childminder interacts warmly with parents and children and she gains information from parents about their children's personal and cultural needs. However, parents are not aware of some her policies and procedures, for instance with regard to the administration of medicine or for seeking emergency treatment or advice. Parents do not receive information about how well their children are achieving. The childminder is not aware of her role to work in partnership with other settings where children receive education and care. There are no strategies in place to promote continuity and coherence for these children. The childminder is positive in her attitude to promoting equality and diversity. However, her practice is not developed to ensure children have their individual welfare and learning needs met appropriately.

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

The childminder's understanding of the learning and development requirements is poor. Although she gives children her time in conversation, the opportunities for children to engage in purposeful play are limited. The childminder does not plan activities to cover all areas of learning. She does not carry out observations to identify children's starting points. Therefore, she does not plan properly or support children's learning and development individually or collectively. Children do not,

therefore, make adequate progress towards the early learning goals.

The play resources that the childminder provides for children are insufficient and inadequate to support children's learning and development. Children are not able to engage in stimulating play, although at times they make the most of what there is. For example, they sing nursery rhymes and count numbers together. The childminder provides no resources to develop children's creativity and there are no opportunities for children to explore and experiment through play. A few books are available to the children and they explore them and engage the childminder, showing the pictures and counting. The television is a big part of the childminder's provision for children's stimulation and this does not offer them opportunities to become curious or inquisitive about their learning.

Children have some opportunities for exercise as they walk to and from school, and visit the park. These activities also provide opportunities for children to use large equipment, such as swings and slides and to socialise with others in the community. Children eat suitable foods including some fruits and vegetables and the childminder provides drinks, including water throughout the day. Along with these, suitable hygiene practices, such as hand washing, help children learn about some aspects of healthy lifestyles. The safe physical environment and practising of the fire evacuation drill help children to understand about a few aspects of personal safety. However, the weaknesses in safeguarding mean that children's safety and welfare cannot be assured. The childminder talks to children and lets them know when their behaviour is unwanted; this helps them to understand that they are expected to be kind to others and to behave well. However, children are not achieving, enjoying or making positive contributions through purposeful play. Overall, outcomes for children are inadequate. Children do not have opportunities to make choices and learn through first hand experiences, this limits their opportunities to develop skills for the future.

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?	4
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement	4

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the Early Years Foundation Stage	4
The effectiveness of leadership and management in embedding ambition and driving improvement	4
The effectiveness with which the setting deploys resources	4
The effectiveness with which the setting promotes equality and diversity	4
The effectiveness of safeguarding	4
The effectiveness of the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement	4
The effectiveness of partnerships	4
The effectiveness of the setting's engagement with parents and carers	4

The quality of the provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage

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Outcomes for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage

Outcomes for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage	4
The extent to which children achieve and enjoy their learning	4
The extent to which children feel safe	4
The extent to which children adopt healthy lifestyles	4
The extent to which children make a positive contribution	4
The extent to which children develop skills for the future	4

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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 for the early years section of the report (Records to be kept/ Suitability and safety of premises and equipment/ Arrangements for safeguarding children) (Also applies to the voluntary part of the Childcare Register) 27/12/2011
- put in place a written statement of procedures to be followed for the protection of children, intended to safeguard the children being cared for from abuse and neglect (Arrangements for safeguarding)(also applies to the voluntary part of the Childcare Register) 27/12/2011

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 (Records to be kept/ Suitability and safety of premises and equipment/ Arrangements for safeguarding children) 27/12/2011