

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	254965
Inspection date	10/01/2012
Inspector	Julie Preston
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 parents in West Bromwich Central, West Midlands. The whole of the property is used for childminding with the exception of two upstairs bedrooms. Accessibility to the premises is on the ground floor level. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The childminder is able to take and collect children from local schools and pre-schools. The family has a pet dog.

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 is currently one children attending who is within the Early Years Foundation Stage, who attends on a full time basis. The childminder also offers care to children aged over five years to 11 years. She 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 good.

The childminder provides an environment where children are happy, secure and are progressing well in their learning and development. She implements most policies, procedures and records effectively to ensure children's care and learning is well fostered. However there is a breach of specific legal requirements as some records lack required detail. This is an inclusive setting where the childminder encourages children to be healthy within a safe environment where she responds to the individual needs and interests of the children. She has a good understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage and how children are able to develop and learn through their play. Effective partnerships between parents and the childminder facilitate individual children's needs being well-met and their protection assured. The childminder is committed to the ongoing improvement of her provision and ensures this by attending training and undertaking self evaluation of her practice.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- obtain information about who has legal contact with the child; and who has parental responsibility for each child (Safeguarding and promoting children's welfare)(also applies to the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register) 24/01/2012
- obtain prior written permission for each and every medicine from parents before any medication is given 24/01/2012

(Safeguarding and promoting children's welfare)(also applies to the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register).

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

- review risk assessments for outings to ensure they cover anything with which a child may come into contact.

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder has a good understanding of safeguarding issues. In order to achieve this she provides a very effective range of policies and procedures in most instances, such as, safeguarding, fire and suitable person. However, she has not obtained information about who has legal contact with the child; and who has parental responsibility for each child and although medication consent is sought, it is not for each medicine to be administered and this compromises children's safety. Children are protected from harm whilst in her care, as she is fully aware of the sign of abuse, and who to inform should she have any concerns. She also ensures persons living within her property are suitable to have contact with children and maintains supervision of children. The home is safe as the childminder undertakes regular risk assessments and daily safety checks to ensure this. This includes risk assessments for outings, however these do not identify anything with which a child may come into contact with at the different venues and this compromises children's safety. The childminder maintains records of these checks.

Information is shared well with parents, for example daily verbal exchanges are undertaken and children's records are shared regularly. The childminder uses self-evaluation as a tool to monitor her practice and is committed to improving her good quality childminding service. Her home is warm and welcoming with resources available at child height to provide children with appropriate stimulation and challenge that is well supported by the childminders interactions within play. The childminder enhances her knowledge and understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage by updating her knowledge by attending regular training. For example, she has attended training in first aid and level 2 food safety in catering. The childminder manages her provision well, providing a good range of resources that are well-maintained. The toys and equipment available are suitable for the ability levels children are working at and include resources that positively reflect diversity, to support enhancement of children's understanding of the wider world. A welcoming and stimulating environment is provided in which children can play and learn, offering a wide range of experiences and activities that promote children's enjoyment and provide challenge. The childminder provides an inclusive service for children and their families, and is committed to working in partnership with families, other agencies and schools when required. Partnerships with parents are very strong.

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

The childminder has a good understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage that she implements well within her practice. When children first attend the setting the childminder obtains information from parents and undertakes observations in order to identify their initial starting points for learning. Regular observations are then completed and used as a tool to identify strengths, weaknesses. This allows planning for children's next steps in their learning and development to be incorporated. Children benefit from the good levels of support provided by the childminder within free choice and adult-led activities and the individual attention to meet their needs. This enables them to make good progress in their learning and development. She extends their language skills by encouraging them to listen to stories, sing familiar songs and rhymes and through ongoing discussions undertaken within all activities. Routine activities are extended effectively to extend and provide positive learning experiences and enhance children's understanding. Children's knowledge of diversity is well promoted as resources, activities and experiences support this. For example, children enjoy finding out about other cultures and the festivals they celebrate.

Children benefit from the positive experiences they have with the childminder, they are happy and content, and eager to attend. Their confidence is enhanced in many ways as they undertake challenging experiences, which help them develop a positive sense of themselves and encourages good levels of personal independence.

Children are supported well to adopt a healthy lifestyle and extend their physical skills in many ways as they are encouraged to be active, eat healthily and to implement good hygiene practices. They enjoy walking the dog and have regular opportunities to use the local parks and the rear garden for physical play. Meals and snacks provided include a range of fresh fruit and vegetables and the childminder encourages them to eat healthily. In addition, time is allowed for rest and relaxation when appropriate.

The childminder positively extends children's play by asks them enquiring, understandable questions and extending play experiences. Children are encouraged to share, take turns and play to enable them to work well independently and as part of a group. Children are very well behaved and respond well to the childminder's management of their behaviour. The childminder provides them with a positive role model and offers them lots of praise and encouragement for their achievements. Children use their imagination and creativity well, for example, they enjoy cooking activities within the play kitchen and playing with the farm.

They develop an understanding of safety issues as the childminder extends their understanding as she encourages them to learn about road safety and how to appropriately evacuate the property in the event of a fire.

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

- take action as specified in the early years section of the report (Records to be kept) 24/01/2012

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 (Records to be kept) 24/01/2012