

Inspection report for early years provision

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Inspection date	27/03/2012
Inspector	Jennifer Turner
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.

There were no children on roll when this inspection took place. The findings in this report are based on evidence gathered from discussions with those who care for the children and an inspection of the premises, equipment and relevant documentation. Where there are no children on roll, no judgement is made on the quality of the early years provision as there is no reliable evidence on which to assess its impact on children. The report states if the provider continues to meet the requirements of registration.

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 2003. She lives with her partner and two sons age two and eight years in Norton Canes near Cannock. The whole of the ground floor including a designated play room and one first floor bedroom is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time. The childminder drives to the local school to take and collect children. The childminder attends a carer and toddler group on a regular basis. She holds a relevant childcare qualification to level three. 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.

At the time of this inspection there were no children on roll in the early years age group.

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The childminder demonstrates a very good understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage requirements. She holds a level three qualification in early years and has attended courses to update her knowledge of childcare and education. The childminder is aware of how to promote good outcomes for children. She helps children to learn about the importance of maintaining a healthy lifestyle. The childminder explains how she provides healthy meals and snacks and provides children with regular exercise. She ensures children understand about their own personal hygiene. Children can learn the importance of washing their hands before meals, after using the toilet or playing outdoors.

The childminder describes how she would take appropriate action if a child were ill or had an accident in order to promote their health. She has all the relevant documentation for recording medication and for obtaining parents' written consents. The childminder describes how she encourages children to develop appropriate behaviour. She uses lots of positive reinforcement such as praise, encouragement and stickers. She would liaise with parents about behaviour management strategies to ensure consistency. The childminder shows a good understanding of how to develop children's awareness of safety. Through discussion, she demonstrates that she talks to children about what to do in the event of a fire and provides opportunities for them to regularly practise the drills. The childminder has an emergency escape plan. She identifies dangers through detailed risk assessments and has implemented a number of safety precautions such as stairs gates, socket covers and cupboard locks. She regularly checks that fire safety equipment is in good working order and maintains a fire log. The childminder demonstrates a very good knowledge of safeguarding issues. She has recently completed the level one safeguarding course and has all the relevant guidance about the procedures to follow if she has any child welfare concerns.

The childminder is aware of the need to maintain appropriate links with local schools, pre-schools and the Children's Centre. She would work in partnership with

them to support continuity for children and has designed communication forms to share. The childminder describes how she liaises with parents. Parents are given a very detailed welcome pack containing all her policies and procedures. She would seek information about children's needs through discussion and tailored settling-in sessions. The childminder has an 'All about me' form to gather information from parents at the start of a placement about children routines, likes and dislikes as well as what they like and are able to do. The childminder is aware of the importance of gaining such information and would use this to ensure she is able to offer an inclusive service. She explains how she would adapt activities and resources to meet children's needs and ensure they are actively involved.

The childminder has a bright and welcoming designated play room which is exceptionally well resourced. Through discussion, she demonstrates how she would plan a good range of activities and experiences to challenge and support children's learning. They would go for walks to the local park and Cannock Chase and the local toddler and childminder group. There is an excellent range of well-maintained toys and resources to use with children of different ages and stages of development. Children would be able to play in a den in the play room where they can use torches or sit quietly. The childminder ensures children are able to access the toys and has used photographs to label storage baskets. She has created an album with photographs of all of the toys she has to support and encourage younger children to choose resources. The childminder describes how she promotes language and communication skills by reading stories and she has a good selection of books.

The childminder knows how to use observations and assessment to identify targets and show children's achievements. Each child is provided with learning journal with photographs of them engaged in activities. The childminder also puts these on a CD for parents. These, along with daily diaries, ensure effective information sharing with parents. She uses the information gained from observation and children's choices to inform future planning and promote children's individual learning and development. All the required records, policies and procedures to support children's welfare and the efficient and smooth running of the setting are in place and stored appropriately. She holds a current first aid certificate and public liability insurance. The childminder demonstrates an awareness of her strengths and weaknesses. She has successfully addressed recommendations from the last inspection. This shows she has the capacity to maintain continuous improvement.

Compliance with registration requirements

The registered person continues to meet the requirements of registration.

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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