

Inspection report for early years provision

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Inspection date	13/07/2010
Inspector	Lisa Paisley
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 1999. She lives with her family in a house in Leigh-on-Sea, Essex. All areas of the childminder's house are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding five children in the early years age group. The childminder may provide overnight care for a maximum of two children under eight years. She also offers care to children aged over five years to 11 years. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children and the childminder takes children on regular outings to the local parks, toddler groups, beach and library. The family has no pets.

This provision is registered by Ofsted on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association (NCMA).

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is outstanding.

Children in the early years age range are making exceptional progress as the childminder has an excellent understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage, early child development and how children play and learn. Children are cared for in a home that is fully inclusive, warm and welcoming with a very strong focus on children's emotional well-being, confidence and social skills. Exceptional relationships have been established with parents, ensuring that they are extensively informed about all aspects of their child's care and well-being. Self-evaluation systems are generally good.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

To further improve the high quality early years provision the registered person should consider:

- reviewing and revising self-evaluation systems to ensure reflective and continuous progression.

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

Policies and procedures are extensive and individual to the childminder, and they reflect the childminder's current excellent practice. Documentation is exceptionally well organised, promoting efficient and safe management of the provision. The exceptional supervision and organisation of routines ensure children are well

supervised and receive consistently very good quality care and play and learning experiences. The childminder has an excellent understanding of safeguarding children and the procedures to follow in the event of a concern. She has recently attended training and updated the safeguarding policy to reflect changes within child protection procedures. Parents are fully informed of the childminder's role in protecting children; this includes the recording of any existing injuries, further promoting children's welfare. All areas of the premises, both indoors and outside are thoroughly risked assessed, this includes making adjustments in accordance to children's developmental progression, for example, babies that are beginning to crawl.

The organisation of the physical environment and excellent deployment of resources, ensure that the childminder successfully creates a stimulating, warm and exciting environment for all the children. Adaptations to daily routines; activities and resources are made to ensure the setting is fully inclusive. There is also an exciting range of exceedingly high-quality resources and equipment, across all areas of play. Ample space is provided for children to explore in hygienic and safe conditions and a great deal of care and thought is put into the play and learning environment. The childminder has a very strong commitment and is passionate in providing the best possible outcomes for children, ensuring excellent standards of care and learning are maintained. She has a very positive attitude towards continued professional development, as the childminder attends regular training courses, these include, safeguarding training, food hygiene and Early Years Foundation Stage. Also the childminder is currently completing an Open University early years module and plans to work towards an early years degree. Self-evaluation is in place identifying strengths and areas for development; however, self-assessment is not yet fully embedded within the provision.

Partnership work with parents and others is outstanding, as professional and positive working relationships have been established with parents and outside agencies. The childminder has an exceptional commitment to meeting the needs of families and she ensures all parents and carers are fully informed about all aspects of the child's care. Parents receive comprehensive feedback, both verbal and written about their child's day and developmental progression. They particularly value the electronic photographs of their child's activities that parents receive on a weekly basis. Complimentary comments from parents commend the childminder on the individual care that is provided, the very extensive range of play and learning experiences children have, the enthusiasm the childminder has and the commitment to her work. Very good systems are in place to ensure excellent working relationships with early years settings, and other professionals promoting continuity of care for children.

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

Planning, observations and assessments arrangements have been successfully embedded within the childminder's practice and topic work is successfully weaved through the planning. A cyclical process has been established within all elements of planning arrangements, this ensures children's developmental progress and

interests inform future activity plans. Activity plans extensively cover the six areas of learning and are individual to each child, further ensuring children's individual needs are met. Children's 'Individual Learning Journeys' are very detailed and provide a rich textual narrative, successfully documenting children's developmental progress across the six areas of learning.

Young children's concentration skills in their play is very good as they become absorbed and work hard in their play experiences, for example, sticking activities and skilfully placing chosen items on the paper. Consequently, successfully extending and consolidating children's learning. Inclusion and diversity is exceptionally promoted as the childminder ensures all children are fully included within activities and routines. Planned celebrations are meaningful and fun for the children, these include Chinese New Year, Christmas, the World Cup and children's birthdays.

Interactions with the children are consistently purposeful as the childminder has very warm; close and affectionate relationships with the children. She knows the children exceptionally well as they are very confident, contented and happy in the childminder's care. The children take part in an excellent range of interesting planned activities and spontaneous events that fully support all areas of learning, both indoors and outside. A particular favourite activity was children splashing in puddles and observing the snails that emerged after the rainfall. Children's language skills are exceptionally well-supported, as the childminder creates a language rich environment, using an extensive range of descriptive vocabulary, encouraging children to think about cause and effect, as a result children are confident talkers and are able to express their thoughts and feelings effectively. The childminder also ensures children can access a very good range of story and information books, providing both instruction and delight for all children.

The garden area provides children with a very good range of play and learning experiences, as the excellent range of toys and equipment and the large climbing frame supports children's physical skills very well. Regular outings are organised in the vicinity, this includes local sure start centres; toddler groups, local park, woods and the beach. Young children particularly enjoy the local beach, splashing in the water, watching the boats and waving at the trains, they also thoroughly enjoy bus and train rides.

There is an outstanding focus on promoting healthy lifestyles and ensuring children feel safe. A very good range of healthy snacks and meals are offered and fresh drinking water is available to children ensuring that they remain well hydrated. Meal times are a sociable time with good peer modelling and manners being promoted. Very good hygiene routines are implemented and the childminder ensures children brush their teeth after their midday meal, preventing tooth decay. Children know how and why to be safe within the home, as the childminder consistently explains to children how to be safe. Emergency evacuation procedures are practised on a regular basis and children have a very good understanding of what to do in the event of an incident or fire. The childminder is very experienced in supporting children's health needs as health care plans are in place, she ensures all required medication is with her at all times and she has attended relevant training. The childminder has also attended first aid training and can deal with

minor injuries, very robust and comprehensive written procedures are in place for the administration of medication and any emergency situations. Overall, children's welfare is exceptionally well promoted by the childminder.

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?	1
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement	1

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

How effectively is the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?	1
The effectiveness of leadership and management in embedding ambition and driving improvement	1
The effectiveness with which the setting deploys resources	1
The effectiveness with which the setting promotes equality and diversity	1
The effectiveness of safeguarding	1
The effectiveness of the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement	1
The effectiveness of partnerships	1
The effectiveness of the setting's engagement with parents and carers	1

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	1
The extent to which children achieve and enjoy their learning	1
The extent to which children feel safe	1
The extent to which children adopt healthy lifestyles	1
The extent to which children make a positive contribution	1
The extent to which children develop skills for the future	1

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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
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The provider confirms that the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register are:	Met
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