

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	306810
Inspection date	19/02/2009
Inspector	Teresa Ann Clark
Type of setting	Childminder

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 report includes information on any complaints about the childcare provision which Ofsted has received since the last inspection or registration whichever is the later, which require Ofsted or the provider to take action in Annex C.

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.

Description of the childminding

The childminder was registered in 1990. She lives with her husband, adult daughter and daughter aged 13 years. The family live in a house in the Edgeley area of Stockport close to shops, parks, schools and public transport links. Children have access to the dining room and hall. There is a fully enclosed rear garden available for outdoor play. The family has a cat.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time on the Early Years Register and on both the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. She is also registered on the voluntary part of the Childcare register to enable her to care for older children. There are currently five children on roll who attend on a part time basis. The childminder collects children from the local school and attends toddler groups. The childminder holds a suitable childcare qualification and is a member of the National Childminding Association.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is good. The experienced childminder has a secure knowledge of the requirements and is well organised. She places high importance upon meeting the children's individual needs thereby recognising the uniqueness of each child. The children are very well cared for and make good progress in their learning and development. The childminder displays a strong capacity for continual improvement. She has a successful partnership with parents by valuing the importance of working together to promote good quality education and care.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- establish an effective system two-way flow of information with other providers to promote the integration of care to ensure high quality care and the progression and continuity of learning
- provide a range of natural materials to promote children's sensory development.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder maintains all of the required records that contribute to children's health, safety and well-being. She manages the provision well and uses her time effectively to ensure the children's individual needs are met. She ensures all household members are appropriately vetted, which helps protect children's welfare. The childminder makes good use of training opportunities to continually develop her knowledge and skills, for instance by attending courses about the Early Years Foundation Stage to ensure she is familiar with new requirements. She

reflects on her practice and her evaluation of the provision's strengths and areas for development are accurate. She has made good progress with the recommendation raised at the last inspection and as a result she now has all the required consents signed by parents.

All children are welcomed and valued, the childminder promotes inclusive practice and she helps children to achieve and promotes their welfare whatever their background. The childminder values and builds good partnerships with parents. They are given good information about their children's learning and development through individual development records which are held for each child. The childminder also shares information with parents when they collect their children at the end of the day to ensure continuity and consistency of care. However, systems are not in place with other providers to promote the integration of care to ensure high quality care and the progression and continuity of learning.

The childminder has a clear understanding of her role and responsibilities in keeping children safe and secure during their time with her. Written risk assessments are in place for the home and each specific type of outing. She has a secure knowledge about safeguarding procedures and is fully aware of the procedures to follow should a concern arise.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The childminder has a good understanding of the learning and development requirements of the EYFS. She knows the children in her care very well and she plans for their learning on an individual basis. A picture of each child's development emerges through the individual records held for children. These include photographs and detailed observations of children's progress towards the early learning goals. Planning takes into account the individual needs of each child as the childminder identifies children's next steps through observations and assessments.

Children play in a comfortable and welcoming home. The childminder provides a good range of age appropriate toys and resources which she continually changes to ensure the children are kept engaged and interested. Children also ask for their favourite toys, such as the train track. Younger children enjoy exploring toys that make sounds and looking at their reflection in the mirror. However, opportunities for their sensory development are limited as they do not have access to a range of natural materials.

The children experience a balance of child-initiated and adult-led play. As children play the childminder is able to challenge their learning through skilful questioning and guidance. For example, as they share a book the children are encouraged to name colours, count and describe what they can see on the page. They learn about colour and shape as they put shapes into the sorter. Children develop their imaginative skills as they dress up pretending to be fairy tale characters and have a tea party. They enjoy using the finger puppet book to sing number songs, such as 'Ten in the bed'. The childminder regularly takes the children out for walks, to local parks and play areas. They attend toddler groups each week, providing

opportunities for children to interact with other adults and children. The childminder skilfully helps children to behave appropriately; she values good behaviour and constantly offers praise and encouragement.

Children begin to learn about keeping themselves safe, for example, they discuss road safety when walking to school and are asked to help to tidy up toys to prevent accidents. Children's good health and well-being are well promoted. Children are provided with healthy snacks and have access to drinking water. The childminder helps them to learn good hygiene routines, such as washing their hands when necessary. She ensures her home is clean and that good standards of hygiene are maintained.

Children develop good social skills and form positive relationships. Their emotional well-being is effectively supported in this nurturing environment. The childminder recognises the importance of children needing to feel secure to enable them to settle. Children show great affection for the childminder, they share a sense of fun and demonstrate a sense of belonging in the setting.

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

Overall effectiveness

How effective is the provision in meeting the needs of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage?	2
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	2
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	2

Leadership and management

How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?	2
How effective is the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement?	2
How well does the setting work in partnership with parents and others?	2
How well are children safeguarded?	2

Quality and standards

How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?	2
How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?	2
How well are children helped to stay safe?	2
How well are children helped to be healthy?	2
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	2
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	2
How well are children helped develop skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being?	2

Any complaints about the inspection or report should be made following the procedures set out in the guidance available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk

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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Annex C: complaint/s made to Ofsted

This section of the report includes details of any complaint/s made to Ofsted when:

- we took action for the provider to meet the requirements of the Early Years Register; or
- we asked the provider to take action in order to meet the requirements of the Early Years Register; or
- the provider had already taken any necessary action to meet the requirements of the Early Years Register.

We will not report on any complaint where the provider met the requirements of the Early Years Register or did not require any action by Ofsted or the registered provider.

Detail of the complaint/s

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the last inspection.

The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by parents, which they can see on request. The complaints record may contain complaints other than those made to Ofsted.