

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	504996
Inspection date	26/03/2009
Inspector	Jannet Mary Richards
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 has been registered since 2000. She lives with her three children aged 10, 15 and 17 years in a house in the Failsworth area of Oldham. The whole of the ground floor and the first floor bathroom of the property are used for childminding. There is an enclosed garden available for outdoor play. The family has two cats.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time. She is registered on the Early Years Register and the voluntary and compulsory parts of the Childcare Register. She is currently caring for three children in the early years age group and three older children after school each day.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is inadequate. The children's welfare is not promoted well enough as the childminder has not followed effective procedures to keep children safe and is in breach of some legal requirements. The childminder develops positive relationships with children, parents and others involved in the lives of the children, and they are generally happy and content. She does not recognise each child's unique learning and development needs, however, or provide a wide range of play activities to encourage their progress and ensure that their individual needs are met. The childminder is able to identify what she needs to do to improve some aspects of her service. She attends training, for example, in an effort to improve her childcare knowledge. She does not assess her childminding service well enough, however, or put effective measures in place to ensure that all requirements are met.

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:

- take action to ensure that persons over 16 years living in the household are vetted (Suitable people)(also applies to both parts of the Childcare Register) 09/04/2009
- develop knowledge of the Early Years Foundation Stage framework and put systems in place to observe, assess and plan a wide range of activities to encourage children's learning and development, in line with this framework (Organisation) 23/04/2009
- undertake and record risk assessments, to include hazards in the garden and action taken to minimise 23/04/2009

these. (Suitable premises, environment and equipment)

To improve the early years provision the registered person should:

- introduce self evaluation systems to assess the effectiveness of the childminding and plan for improvements.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder organises her home, toys and resources suitably to enable children to play with the toys they like and play safely indoors. She supervises the children well and takes action to ensure their safety. For example, she does not allow them to play in the garden at the present time as it has some hazards. However, she does not conduct clear written risk assessments in accordance with requirements. In addition, the childminder has not taken sufficient action to ensure that all household members are vetted. This means that children's safety is compromised. The childminder maintains appropriate records relating to the care of the children. She provides children with balanced meals and healthy snacks to promote their health appropriately. She keeps her home, toys and equipment clean to minimise the risk of the spread of infection.

The childminder makes children and their parents welcome. She talks to parents and carers every day about what the children have been doing to ensure that they are suitably informed. They work together on issues such as toilet training to ensure that children benefit from a consistent approach. In addition, the childminder provides some basic activities to complement what the children do at pre-school. For example, the childminder and children sing the nursery rhymes together which the children have been learning in pre-school.

The childminder is able to make some positive changes in her childminding service. She has purchased a first aid kit and ensures that smoke alarms are in working order, effectively addressing two issues raised at her last inspection. The childminder is able to identify some aspects of her service which require further development. She has attended some training in an effort to gain an awareness of the Early Years Foundation Stage framework, although does not yet have a sound understanding of how to use this framework in her day-to-day care of the children. This means that children's individual learning and development needs are not met. The childminder does not yet assess her service effectively enough or take enough action to continually improve the quality of care for the children.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The children have a good relationship with the childminder, they are happy to see her when they arrive and are settled and content in her care. The children enjoy a very basic range of activities which encourage some aspects of their learning and development. They enjoy developing their imagination as they play with the dolls and prams, for example, acting out familiar domestic scenes. They listen generally

well to stories, pointing to the pictures, naming the animals they see and counting how many, developing communication and early number skills.

The childminder interacts appropriately with the children as they play, asking simple questions to encourage basic learning, although she does not assess whether individual children are making progress. The children occasionally have opportunities to develop their creativity by painting, and occasionally have opportunities to develop their large motor skills and coordination as they play outdoors. Overall, however, the play activities do not provide enough opportunities for children to make sound progress in all areas of learning and development.

Children develop some awareness of safety. For example, the childminder shows them how to cross roads safely when they are out and about, although she does not put effective measures in place to ensure that they are fully safeguarded.

Children's health is promoted appropriately as children enjoy nutritious meals and healthy snacks. Children play with toys and resources which are maintained in a clean condition, they wash their hands regularly during the day, ensuring that the risk of the spread of infection is minimised. The children behave generally well, sharing their toys and taking turns. The childminder praises them often to encourage their positive behaviour. The children have access to some toys and books with positive images of different people in society, raising their awareness of diversity. The childminder has a positive attitude and welcomes all children.

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?	4
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	3
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	4

Leadership and management

How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?	4
How effective is the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement?	4
How well does the setting work in partnership with parents and others?	3
How well are children safeguarded?	4

Quality and standards

How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?	4
How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?	4
How well are children helped to stay safe?	4
How well are children helped to be healthy?	3
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	4
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	3
How well are children helped develop skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being?	3

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:

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.(CR3) 09/04/2009

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.(CR3) 09/04/2009

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 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.