

Inspection report for early years provision

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Inspection date	06/10/2009
Inspector	Karen Ann Byfleet
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 2002. She lives with her family and their pets, a dog and a tortoise, in the Clifton district of Nottingham. The childminder's husband is also her registered assistant. The whole of the ground floor and the bathroom and small bedroom on the first floor of the childminder's house are used. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play and a self-contained playroom is sited within this area.

The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. She is registered to provide care for a maximum of six children at any one time and there are currently seven children on roll. Of these three are in the early years age range. The childminder takes children to the local school, pre-school and childminders' support group. 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.

Children are making good progress in their learning and development. They are very happy and settled within the well-organised environment and the childminder clearly recognises and values the uniqueness of each child that attends. The effective partnerships that have been developed with parents ensure children's welfare needs are consistently met. The childminder is in the process of developing relationships with other providers to ensure consistency and coherence in children's care and learning. All required documentation is in place to ensure children are safeguarded. The childminder has maintained and reviewed her provision through an effective self-evaluation process and is fully committed to maintaining continuous improvement of her provision.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- ensure the risk assessments that are in place are reviewed regularly and that they are signed and dated by person who has reviewed them.

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

Children are effectively safeguarded as the childminder has implemented an effective policy and procedure which she shares with parents. The policy is clear in informing parents and carers of her responsibilities to ensure children are safeguarded. Effective and detailed risk assessments are in place for the premises, equipment and for all outings undertaken with the children. However, these are currently not reviewed regularly to ensure they remain valid and consistent.

Effective safety measures are in place with regard to the premises. The door to the house is kept locked and the gate outside in the rear garden has locks fitted to prevent unwanted visitors from entering the premises, ensuring children are safe. An emergency evacuation plan is in place, helping to raise children's awareness of safety. Children's health and welfare is fully supported through a varied and balanced diet of healthy foods such as fresh fruits and vegetables. All required written permissions are in place for the childminder to administer medication and seek any necessary medical advice or treatment, enhancing children's well-being. Resources are clean, well maintained, and suitable for their purpose.

The childminder's self-evaluation is still in the early stages of development. However, she has started to clearly identify areas of effective practice and areas she wants to improve. Recommendations that were made at the previous inspection have been addressed well and as a result the childminder demonstrates a strong capacity for maintaining continuous improvement. She has strong knowledge and understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and has devised her practice to include an effective observation and assessment system to ensure she is monitoring children's progress and development. Partnerships with parents are professional and very effective. They are given access to the childminder's written policies and information about children's welfare is exchanged daily through verbal communication. Information with regard to the children's progress in their learning and development is also shared regularly as the childminder makes assessment reports of each child's development through all areas of learning and includes the next steps in children's learning to ensure they continue to develop and make further progress. Although there are no children currently attending other providers who deliver the EYFS, the childminder has plans in place for the development of building beneficial links with other providers, when the need arises, to ensure children's learning is consistent and coherent.

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

Children are happy and settled in the childminder's home and they are making good progress in their learning and development. The childminder interacts well with the children in their freely chosen play and she is warm and caring towards them. The environment is organised well. The childminder has converted her garage into a purposeful playroom which is situated in the rear garden. Children are able to independently access a very good range of age appropriate toys and resources and their art work is attractively displayed on the walls, helping to raise their sense of belonging and self-esteem. The childminder plans effective routines and activities which clearly take account of individual children's interests and choices. Outdoor activities are planned and provided on a daily basis and the childminder is flexible as she takes account of what children want to do and the weather conditions. The childminder plans activities well and undertakes regular observations that link to the areas of learning in order for her to plan the next steps in children's learning and she responds positively to children's interests and choices. Children enjoy playing with small world toys such as the dolls house and they relate their play to familiar scenarios at home. For example they use a painter, small world figure, to decorate the dolls house and talk freely about how

their mummy paints and decorates at home.

Children's welfare and safety is fully supported. They feel safe within the childminder's home and they confidently approach her and any visitors to the home and they are developing independence as they make choices. The childminder has detailed and clear policies and procedures in place to ensure children are well cared for if they fall ill or have minor accidents and she holds a valid first aid certificate. For example, parents are contacted if children are ill and the childminder keeps them comfortable until parents arrive. Children's health is further supported through the healthy foods and drinks which are available to children throughout the day. Children are developing a highly effective awareness of their own personal hygiene as they know and follow hygiene procedures such as washing their hands before eating and after using the bathroom. All children use anti-bacterial gel or individual wet wipes which helps to prevent any cross infection.

Children's development in all six areas of learning is promoted well. They have regular access to activities that encourage and develop their skills such as problem solving and communication. For example, they enjoy sorting cars into colour groups and playing imaginatively with the dolls. They participate in craft and creative activities such as painting, collage and play dough. The children are cooperative and play very well together, forming strong relationships with each other.

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

How effectively is the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?	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

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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:	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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