

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY241427
Inspection date	14/05/2009
Inspector	Anne Mort
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 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 2003. She lives with her husband and two children, one a teenager and one aged 12. The family live in Horwich, near to Bolton. The whole of the ground floor and the first floor bathroom are used for childminding purposes. A separate, enclosed garden area, owned by the childminder, is situated opposite the front of the property. This area and a rear yard are available for outside play. The childminder, who sometimes works with an assistant, is registered on the Early Years Register and both parts of the Childcare Register. There are currently six children on roll. The childminder operates each weekday on a flexible basis, all year round, with the exception of Christmas and her own family holiday times. The childminder sometimes uses her car to transport children to and from school and for outings. She is a member of the National Childminding Association and holds an appropriate childcare qualification.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The quality of the provision is outstanding. The childminder provides an extremely caring, stimulating and welcoming environment, in which all children and their families feel valued and fully included. An excellent partnership with parents ensures they are provided with all relevant information and that children's needs are met. The childminder is committed to improving her practice which she does through attending meaningful training. Good systems are used effectively to continually monitor and evaluate her practice to improve outcomes for children.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- review risk assessments to include the front play area of the property.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

A fully inclusive and welcoming service is provided for children. Precise, comprehensive paperwork and written policies contribute to providing an excellent environment that fully promotes children's welfare. Effective partnerships with parents ensure the childminder is fully aware of a child's background and she takes this into consideration when caring for the child. Information about a child's achievements and the events of the day are shared with parents on a daily basis when the child is collected. Each child has a daily diary in which the childminder notes the events of the day and in which parents can make comments.

Children's welfare is thoroughly safeguarded; the identity of visitors to the childminder's home are checked and they are not left alone with children. All areas of the home are risk assessed with plans to update and include the front play

areas. She gives full consideration to children's safety when on outings and holds written risk assessments for each outing. Parents sign to acknowledge they have read the childminder's policies and procedures. These include how to make a complaint and the childminder's procedure should she have a concern about a child.

Robust and rigorous checks and procedures ensure that children's safety and welfare remain a high priority and they move freely and confidently around the safe, secure premises. The childminder fully protects children in the good quality safety equipment placed appropriately in her home, for example, smoke alarms, safety gates and safety edges to corners of furniture. The childminder is fully aware of her role in child protection matters and is competent and confident in her responsibilities regarding safeguarding children's well-being. In addition, an open and honest approach with the parents ensures that they are clear about how she will deal with concerns.

Extremely efficient practices followed by the childminder result in children being protected from physical harm, illness and the spread of infection. A written menu illustrates that the childminder has excellent knowledge of how to provide children with a varied range of healthy well balanced meals.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Space, time and resources are exceptionally well organised to meet the needs of the children and enhance their play experiences. The childminder works with an assistant at times and this thoroughly promotes the children's enjoyment of sharing their world with adults who lovingly care for them. Toys and books are easily accessed by children, enabling them to initiate their own ideas, make choices and develop independence. The childminder plans and provides a broad range of interesting activities which provide good levels of challenge, appropriate to the children's age and stage of development. For instance, children take part in actively choosing the colours of paper they wish to use and colour of their glue brush, then continue in a free choice gluing activity in which their small muscle development is extremely well promoted.

Children relish their time with the childminder. She plans exceptionally well to provide them with well planned and child initiated, worthwhile activities that stimulate their interest in learning and exploration. They are visibly delighted with the musical instruments that light up when used and the contents of the treasure basket when they handle items of differing textures and when a quiet reading time is suggested by the childminder. They lean against her and enjoy a favourite story that involves a child with a disability. They are well able to handle books, turn pages and predict the story line. Thus children's creative development is excellently provided for and early reading skills are presented as a pleasurable activity in which they can take part.

Because of excellent planning by the childminder all children make exceptional progress in their learning from their starting points. Each child has a development book and observations and assessments about what children can do are rigorous.

The childminder provides a clear outline of when and how she will move them forward to the next steps on their learning journey.

She provides a relaxed and nurturing atmosphere. She smiles, plays and laughs with children throughout the day and offers timely praise to raise their self-esteem. It is very evident they are aware that their presence is valued. Physical skills that greatly contribute towards a healthy lifestyle are developing at a fast rate because there is excellent use of resources in the home and when on visits to local parks and play groups. This enables children to practise small and large muscle control and discover what their bodies can do.

Children enjoy lovely relationships with each other as they play happily together, with support from the childminder and her assistant, and show care and concern for each other with spontaneous cuddles. The affectionate and gentle care given by the childminder enables all children to develop a sense of belonging and trust. Children are learning about the importance of good personal hygiene and are becoming increasingly independent in their personal care. Their well-being is enhanced really well and they know to use their own face cloth and towel when needed. The childminder provides a welcoming, loving atmosphere in which children have full and ongoing opportunities to develop their all round learning. They are presented with an environment in which they are secure and very much valued for their individuality.

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?	1
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	1
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	1

Leadership and management

How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?	1
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?	1
How well are children safeguarded?	1

Quality and standards

How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?	1
How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?	1
How well are children helped to stay safe?	2
How well are children helped to be healthy?	1
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	1
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	1
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
---	-----

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