

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY298470
Inspection date	14/11/2008
Inspector	Sue Partington
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 2005. She lives with her husband and three children aged 15, 12, and four years old in Horwich near Bolton, Lancashire. The childminder uses the whole of the ground floor and the main bedroom of the property for childminding. Bathroom facilities are located on the first floor. There is a fully enclosed garden to the rear of the property. The home is accessed via steps.

The childminder is registered to care for five children and is registered on the Early Years Register, and both parts of the Childcare Register. There are currently three children on roll; all of whom are in the early years age group and attend for a variety of sessions. Care is offered from 07.30 to 17.30, Monday to Friday all year round.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association. She attends the local childminder drop-in, toddler groups, local parks and the library. The childminder holds a level 4 qualification in Early Childhood Studies.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The childminder effectively promotes children's welfare and learning and she provides a safe and inclusive environment. The children make good progress in their learning and development because the childminder knows the children well, and plans activities based on their individual needs. The strong partnership with parents and other early years settings ensure that everyone works together to support the children effectively. The childminder has developed effective systems in relation to self-evaluation and these help her to monitor the service she provides.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- develop knowledge of the timescales for notifying complainants of the outcomes of complaint investigations.

To fully meet the specific requirements of the EYFS, the registered person must:

- conduct a risk assessment of the premises, and keep a record, which must identify aspects of the environment that need to be checked on a regular basis and risk assess any outings undertaken (Suitable premises, environment and equipment) (Also applies to both parts of the Childcare Register).

31/12/2008

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder is committed to continuous improvement. She has devised her own format for self-evaluation which outlines the outcomes for children. The childminder is currently focusing on developing risk assessments. These plans are targeted to bring about further improvement in the outcomes for children.

The childminder has attended training in relation to safeguarding children and she has a written child protection procedure in place. She has a secure knowledge of her role and understanding of child protection matters and procedures. The childminder has up-to date Local Safeguarding Children Board information and this ensures that children's welfare is effectively safeguarded.

She is committed to ensuring that the service provided is fully inclusive, and she makes parents and their children feel welcome. Children's artwork, posters, photographs and information for parents is on display and this makes the environment bright, stimulating and informative for the children and their parents. The childminder works closely with parents to ensure their children's individual needs are met. Parents are provided with a good source of information about their children's daily routines and activities through daily diaries and achievement files.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The childminder is an enthusiastic and committed childcare practitioner, and she has a high regard for children's well-being as she attends lots of training to further develop her childcare practices. She has a valid first aid certificate ensuring she has up-to-date knowledge of what to do in the event of an accident or minor injury. The childminder practises emergency fire evacuation with minded children on a regular basis, ensuring that they are aware of the procedures.

The premises are homely, clean and well maintained. The childminder actively promotes good hygiene practices to minimise the risk of cross-infection. Children learn about personal care routines as they wash their hands at appropriate times of the day. The childminder has a good understanding of safety, and all reasonable steps have been taken to ensure that the environment in which children are cared for is safe and secure. She conducts a regular safety check of her premises and equipment but does not keep a record of her findings.

The childminder works with parents to gather information about their children's starting points. She observes the children at play and records this information to help chart the children's progress and plan their next steps in learning. The observations are informative and also note how the children respond in different situations. The next steps are achievable and set realistic expectations and challenge.

Space, time and resources are exceptionally well organised to meet the needs of the children and enhance their play experiences. Toys are stored in boxes which are labelled and are available at child height, enabling the children to initiate their

own ideas, make choices and develop independence. She 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 example, using cutters to make Christmas shapes out of dough. They show increasing competence in using tools, such as rolling pins and shaped objects which help develop hand-eye coordination and their fine manipulative skills.

Children benefit from activities outside the home to widen their experiences and to help them develop their awareness in the local community, including visits the park and soft play areas on a regular basis. All these activities contribute to the children's good health and physical development. Children play with a good range of natural materials. A particular favourite is a pastry brush; children brush toys and furniture before sitting down. They enjoy posting different sized objects into a large cardboard tube and look through to find them coming out of the other end.

Children investigate how things work and seek to do things themselves, knowing that the childminder is close by to help and support if needed. For instance, they enjoy playing on the computer and concentrate hard to follow instructions of the game negotiating the mouse accordingly. They express their delight as they laugh and clap hands when they have achieved. Children clearly enjoy their time with the childminder and they thrive on her interaction and attention.

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:

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 (CR5.4) 31/12/2008

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 (CR5.4) 31/12/2008

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.