

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY310144
Inspection date	19/05/2009
Inspector	Shirley Amanda Wilkes
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 2005. She lives in a residential area of Nantwich. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding, along with the bathroom and one bedroom upstairs for sleeps. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The childminder walks or drives to nearby schools, pre-schools and other facilities, to take and collect children. She also attends local toddler groups and takes children to places of interest.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. She currently looks after 10 children, of whom five are in the early years age range. The childminder holds a relevant early years qualification and is a member of the National Childminding Association.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The overall quality of the provision is good. The childminder uses her experience to provide a safe and homely environment which supports children's care and learning. They freely choose from a broad range of resources both in the home and the well resourced garden. Parents receive detailed information about their child's care, learning and development, including policies and procedures at admission, daily communication diaries and open access to individual records. Assessment and observation systems effectively identify and meet children's individual needs, ensuring that all children make good progress and have an equal opportunity within the setting. The childminder has begun to implement effective procedures to monitor and evaluate the provision to ensure continuous improvement.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- develop further the systems for monitoring and evaluating the strengths and weaknesses of the provision
- develop further the procedures for risk assessing outings to include relevant detail.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

Children are cared for in a safe environment because the childminder has a sound understanding of this area, completing thorough risk assessments of all areas of the home and carrying out informal daily safety checks. Children are gaining a good understanding of how to keep themselves and others safe, through good daily practice, for example, the use of safety reins when out walking and practising emergency evacuation procedures regularly. However, their safety is not fully

promoted as risk assessments for outings do not contain sufficient detail. The childminder fully understands child protection issues and knows the procedure to follow, should she have any concerns about a child in her care.

The childminder's good partnerships with parents means that they are well informed of their children's progress and activities there is an efficient exchange of information to ensure that children's care is consistent though the use of daily diaries and informal chats. The childminder has taken action to remedy the recommendations made at the last inspection. Consent has been obtained to seek emergency medical advice and treatment if needed. She also ensures that parents know about how to contact Ofsted, should they be unhappy about how a complaint is handled. However, she has not yet consolidated her system for ongoing self-evaluation to fully ensure the continuous improvement of her service.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children are making good progress due to the support and encouragement of the childminder. They move around the home confidently and safely because the layout enables this and they know where each type of activity is carried out. The childminder provides a good range of organised toys, activities and equipment suitable for their individual needs which children are able to freely access. She makes regular observations of children's achievements and uses her knowledge of the early learning goals to assess each child's progress and identify the next steps that they need to take. She uses this information when planning a variety of stimulating activities and in supporting children's free play. They are developing good communication skills as they chat animatedly to the childminder and other adults and they enjoy matching games talking about the animals and the sounds they make. They explore different media and materials in a variety of arts and craft activities and are encouraged to problem-solve, count and recognise numerals throughout their daily routine.

Children are well behaved and have good manners. They show concern for younger children and encourage them in their play by showing them how to do activities such as where to place their cards when playing a listening game. Children are kept healthy as they learn the importance of good hygiene, for example, they wash their hands before they eat and after using the toilet. They enjoy fresh air everyday as they go on walks and outings in the local area for example to visit the field of sheep. They also develop their muscles during outdoor play in the well resourced garden where they can use large climbing equipment. They are well cared for in the event of having an accident as the childminder is qualified in first aid and has all systems in place to respond appropriately. Children are kept safe as the premises are kept secure and the childminder uses a visitors book to record any visitors to the home.

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

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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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