

Inspection report for early years provision

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Inspection date	12/01/2010
Inspector	Ingrid Szczerban
Type of setting	Childminder

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Royal Exchange Buildings
St Ann's Square
Manchester
M2 7LA

T: 08456 404040
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.ofsted.gov.uk

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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 2009. She lives in Bingley, West Yorkshire close to shops, nurseries, schools, parks, a library and transport links. She has two children aged eight and five years and is registered to care for five children under eight years, and of these, three may be in the early years age group. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's home, along with a first floor bathroom and toilet are used for childcare purposes. Access to the home is via a sloping path and three steps to the front door, alternatively there is level access to the back door from a pathway which serves the row of terraced houses. The childminder is registered by Ofsted on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary part of the Childcare Register. The family have three cats. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is satisfactory.

Sufficient attention is given to meeting the care, learning and development needs of children. Children partake in a range of activities and make steady progress in their learning. Inclusive practice is promoted and children are valued and respected as individuals. The childminder is able to assess her provision and can identify areas for improvement. She demonstrates the capacity to continuously improve the service she provides.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- provide a record of risk assessments and when and by whom they were carried out (Suitable premises, environment and equipment) 26/01/2010
- ensure that records are easily accessible and available for inspection by Ofsted (Documentation) 26/01/2010

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

- develop systems for storing toys to increase children's decision-making and independence
- maintain a record of children's development which incorporates all areas of learning and identifies their next steps for learning
- devise a system for self-evaluation which involves children and parents.

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

Children are generally safeguarded. Adults in the home are suitably vetted and health and hygiene procedures are adhered to in practice. Children are protected from cross-infection as they use individual towels. The childminder has a sound understanding of child protection issues and the action to take should the need arise. A safe environment is created for children and all potential risks are minimised because risk assessments are undertaken for the home and for outings. However, no record is maintained of the risk assessments conducted, which is a breach in legal requirements. The childminder keeps all necessary details of children in her care; she has a current first aid certificate and has sought all necessary written parental consents but these have been retained by the parents, rather than the childminder. The childminder has had a police check but could not locate the document at this inspection. Not having easy access to documentation is a breach in legal requirements.

The childminder has no formal system in place for self-evaluation but she has identified some areas for improvement and acted on these. For instance, the range of musical instruments and art and craft activities have been extended, and the childminder has enrolled on further training. These actions were taken in response to the individual needs and interests of children. Suitable arrangements to consult with parents as to their satisfaction with the service provided are made, and the childminder talks to them regularly.

The childminder gathers all relevant personal information about daily routines, health and dietary requirements. This means she gives care which is tailored to children's individual needs. High levels of attention are given to children so they are happy and confident. Children are able to choose what they want to play with from toys in a chest or those kept in the kitchen pantry. However, these are not very well ordered which detracts from their ability to make decisions and be independent.

Partnerships with parents and carers are positive. There are systems in place to exchange information with parents and liaise with the school where children attend, in order to benefit the development of children and extend their learning in line with the Early Years Foundation Stage. Parents receive a copy of the childminder's policies and procedures to read.

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

The children make steady progress in their learning and development. The childminder has a sound understanding of how young children learn and she plans developmentally appropriate activities for them. The childminder observes children as they play, thus she makes assessments about what they can do, what they like, and makes suitable plans to extend their learning. However, there is a lack of clarity about children's starting points and the extent of their progression because

no record is kept. During activities the children are given good support, and the childminder talks about what they are doing.

Children feel safe in their relationships with the childminder, they are well behaved, happy and settled. They are eager to play with their favourite toys, such as play figures and trains, and they initiate their own game of peek-a-boo with the childminder. Children learn how to keep themselves safe. They regularly practise the fire drill and are reminded by the childminder not to chew toys in case they hurt their mouths.

Children communicate effectively; four-year-olds chat confidently and two-year-olds say simple sentences and use gestures to convey their wishes and ideas. Language development is encouraged through the provision of toy telephones which young children like to use. Speech is also promoted because the childminder engages children in singing and musical activities.

Children love to be physically active. They build snowmen and go to feed the ducks. The childminder provides clear space in the home for them to move around freely. She takes children to playgroups three times a week and they regularly visit the park. Therefore, they benefit from socialising with larger groups, learn to run and climb, build their stamina, gain confidence in finding out what their bodies can do, and begin to develop active lifestyles.

Children remain healthy because effective hygiene routines are followed and they rest and sleep according to their individual needs. The childminder ensures that the changing mat is cleaned each time it is used to prevent any cross-infection. The menus offered to children are sufficiently balanced and nutritious and include fresh fruit for snacks.

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?	3
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement	3

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

How effectively is the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?	3
The effectiveness of leadership and management in embedding ambition and driving improvement	3
The effectiveness with which the setting deploys resources	3
The effectiveness with which the setting promotes equality and diversity	3
The effectiveness of safeguarding	3
The effectiveness of the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement	3
The effectiveness of partnerships	3
The effectiveness of the setting's engagement with parents and carers	3

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	3
The extent to which children achieve and enjoy their learning	3
The extent to which children feel safe	3
The extent to which children adopt healthy lifestyles	3
The extent to which children make a positive contribution	3
The extent to which children develop skills for the future	3

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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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