

Inspection report for early years provision

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Inspection date	02/03/2011
Inspector	Angela Cuffe
Type of setting	Childminder

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E: enquiries@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 2010. She lives with her husband and three children aged 13, 11 and seven years in Portwood, Stockport, close to shops, parks, schools and public transport links. The whole of the childminder's home is used for childminding except for the bedrooms.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children under eight years at any one time, no more than three of which may be in the early years age range. She is currently minding two children in this age group. She also offers care to children aged over five years to 11 years. The childminder is registered with Ofsted on the Early Years Register and both the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register.

The childminder collects children from the local school and goes to toddler groups on a regular basis. 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.

A well developed knowledge of each child's needs makes sure the childminder successfully promotes children's learning and welfare. Children are safe and secure and enjoy learning about the world around them. The partnership with parents is a priority and is significant in meeting the individual needs of the children. This means that children make good progress, given their age, ability and starting points. The childminder knows her strengths she has made good progress to develop her service since registration and demonstrates a capacity to maintain continuous improvement. This is currently focused on developing links with other providers of the Early Years Foundation Stage and planning the outside area.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- organise the outdoor environment to ensure that every child receives an enjoyable and challenging experience
- develop a system for setting up links with other providers of the Early Years Foundation Stage.

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder has a good understanding of child protection and her responsibility if she is concerned about a child's welfare. She is confident to follow procedures and link with other agencies to ensure children are safe. A comprehensive child protection policy is shared with parents to keep them

informed of her responsibilities. Detailed risk assessments on the premises, and also for outings, ensure that safety is continually monitored and reviewed. Fire drills are practised regularly, which ensures children understand what to do should the need to evacuate the premises arise. All required records and documentation are in place, as well as written policies and procedures.

The childminder actively promotes equality and diversity in her practice to ensure all children have a good understanding of the way other people live. The childminder works in partnership with parents to ensure children's individual needs are met. The childminder does not currently provide care for children who also attend other settings providing the Early Years Foundation Stage and therefore to date has not developed a system to promote effective partnerships. Parents provide positive feedback and are complimentary about the care their children receive. Resources are well maintained, clearly organised and are easily accessible to children. However, this good practice is not reflected in the outside area, which has a negative impact on their choice and independence. The childminder has identified this as an area for improvement as part of her self-evaluation and vision for the future.

The childminder has a good knowledge of the Early Years Foundation Stage framework, which enhances the observation and assessment of the children. Observations are carried out on a regular basis; these are then linked to the six areas of learning, each child's next steps and the overall planning which has a positive impact on the learning and development each child receives. The childminder has attended relevant training since her registration to keep her updated with current legislation regarding first aid.

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

Children are very happy and well settled in the childminder's care. Her enthusiastic and caring manner enables children to feel safe and secure and form trusting relationships. Emphasis is placed on children learning through play, exploration and fun. Varied ranges of stimulating activities are available for children to choose from, which take into account children's different ages and stages of development. This ensures all children are able to participate in activities and, as a result, they make good progress in their development and are motivated to learn.

Children are eager to learn and take a lively interest in everything they do. They demonstrate good levels of concentration and the relaxed, supportive atmosphere enables them to freely express themselves. From the time they arrive, the children are eager to explore whatever is available to them and they meet every new challenge with a real enthusiasm. Playing games together produces plenty of excitement and children laugh out loud as they explore the toys. Children confidently communicate with the childminder as they play and pass her a book to read to them. They enjoy looking at the characters and feeling the different textures as the story is read to them. Counting activities and playing with electronic puzzles, shape sorters and games successfully promotes children's

problem solving and reasoning. Children develop a positive attitude towards diversity and take part in activities linked to various festivals. Chinese New Year being the most recent, the children make lanterns and look at pictures in books and on displays. They have access to a range of dressing up clothes, books, dolls, puzzles and musical instruments. This positive and supportive practice promotes their development and skills for the future.

Children develop a keen interest in nature during their walks to the local parks and whilst in the garden. Children have ongoing access to the garden, where they plant seeds in the greenhouse and dig in the dirt. They access a range of large equipment at nearby indoor play areas and parks. This helps them to develop control and coordination over their bodies. Children eagerly express their creativity as they regularly access a range of materials to create pictures, such as glitter and paint. They use fine and gross motor skills as they use paintbrushes and drawing implements. Children's good health is well promoted due to the effective hygiene procedures. Surfaces, toys and equipment are kept clean and children independently use handwashing facilities and tissues. Children are provided with healthy, home cooked meals and have access to drinking water at all times to enable them to satisfy their thirst when needed.

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

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the Early Years Foundation Stage	2
The effectiveness of leadership and management in embedding ambition and driving improvement	2
The effectiveness with which the setting deploys resources	3
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	3
The effectiveness of the setting's engagement with parents and carers	2

The quality of the provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage

The quality of the provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage	2
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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