

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY250687
Inspection date	09/06/2009
Inspector	Saida Cummings

Type of setting	Childminder
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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.

Description of the childminding

The childminder was registered in 2003 and lives with her family in a residential area situated in the suburbs of Coventry, West Midlands. There are local shops, parks, playing fields, daycare settings and schools within walking distance. The childminder is able to take and collect children from local schools and daycare settings. Children are taken on local visits and outings.

All of the ground floor areas are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed rear garden available for outdoor play. The childminder has procedures to support children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, and those who speak English as an additional language. She is registered to care for six children at any one time and there are currently three children on roll within the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), all of whom attend on a part-time basis. The childminder also cares for older children. This provision is registered by Ofsted on the Early Years Register and on both the voluntary and compulsory parts of the Childcare Register. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association (NCMA).

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is good. Children's learning and development are exceptionally well-promoted by the childminder and they thrive in the very well-organised stimulating environment. Their individual needs are extremely well catered for as the childminder supports each child with developing their skills, which promotes inclusive practice as all children are able to participate at their own level. Children's welfare is successfully promoted in a safe, friendly and homely environment. The childminder has developed very good working relationships with parents and carers ensuring they are kept well informed of their children's daily routines, care and learning. The self-evaluation system is in its infancy and is not yet sufficiently developed to ensure the childminder is able to make continuous improvements in all areas.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- develop the self-evaluation system further to ensure priorities for making improvements are identified and implemented in all areas
- update and maintain the record of risk assessment to include any assessments of risks for each type of outing.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

Children's learning and development are exceedingly well promoted. The childminder organises the sessions to ensure that all children enjoy challenging experiences that are tailored to meet their individual needs. The activities and

experiences provided are exceptionally well matched to children's needs and interests. For example, the childminder ensures ball games are included in the planned outdoor activities for the children who are particularly interested in football. Children's care is significantly enhanced because of the childminder's knowledge and understanding of how young children learn and develop. The childminder has up-to-date knowledge and understanding of childcare and has a positive attitude towards further developing her skills and knowledge. She has completed a National Vocational Qualification Level 2 in Childcare and Early Education and is currently working towards a Level 3. Children benefit from the childminder's commitment to further development as she regularly attends relevant training events and ensures any changes or good practice are implemented into the care provided. Children are safeguarded because the childminder has effective procedures for carrying out regular risk assessments and ensures any hazards to children are minimised. This includes making sure children are kept safe during outings. However, although the childminder has developed relevant systems for recording the risk assessments, these do not include details for each type of outing to ensure children's safety is fully protected. Children's welfare is promoted and safeguarded as the childminder has a good understanding of the known indicators of child abuse and also of the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) procedures.

The childminder has developed warm and friendly working relationships with parents and carers. They verbally exchange information at the start and end of each day, which ensures an effective two-way flow of information. The childminder has devised very good systems for initially gathering all the required information from parents and carers to ensure she is made fully aware of each child's starting point. This information is then used to plan exciting and interesting activities for individual children to enable them to develop their self-esteem and progress in their early education and skills. A photographic and written record of children's achievements is shared with parents and carers which enables them to be part of their child's learning. Well-maintained records are used positively to support children and written policy statements are clear, personalised and provide useful information for parents and carers. Self-assessment is evident in the childminder's practice and she has a clear vision for high quality and inclusive care. However, the process for identifying priorities for developing the provision in all areas are not yet fully developed to ensure continual improvements are made.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children are making excellent progress towards the early learning goals and in all areas of their development. They are provided with extensive opportunities to enjoy a well-balanced selection of adult-led and child-led activities. The childminder plans exciting and stimulating activities linked to the six areas of learning, taking into consideration the children's individual interests and experiences. Their independence is developed and nurtured as they confidently make decisions about what they would like to play with and are encouraged to carry out most of the tasks for themselves, such as putting on and taking off their shoes. Systems for observation, assessment and planning are extremely well developed and ensure that children's individual learning and development needs

are well known by the childminder. She successfully uses her knowledge of individual children and the EYFS to ensure that activities are planned to help children take the next steps in their learning. Children have formed harmonious relationships with their peers and the childminder. Their confidence is encouraged and nurtured as they are able to explore and experiment in a safe environment. Children have access to an excellent range of resources and activities which promote positive images of diversity, such as a range of small play figures with disabilities, families from other cultures and a toy wheelchair. The childminder skilfully uses appropriate language to answer children's questions which arise from playing with these resources. This enables children to talk about similarities and differences in a manner which is aimed at their level of understanding. As a result, children's positive attitudes to diversity through everyday activities are very well promoted which helps them to learn to value aspects of their own and other people's lives. Children's awareness of the world around them and the wider society is encouraged through a range of activities and outings. This includes outings within the local community, such as visiting the art and history galleries.

Children have many opportunities to explore and investigate, and extend their imagination and creative skills. They enthusiastically join in with art and craft activities and thoroughly enjoy getting messy and exploring various materials. For example, they experiment with various types of paper when cutting and gluing to create their colourful collages. Their problem solving skills are further extended during this type of activity as the childminder encourages them to recognise and name the various shapes, such as squares, circles and triangles. As a result, children are motivated and spend time at their chosen activities, concentrating whilst developing their creative skills. Children are all encouraged to develop their communication skills through relaxed conversation with each other and the childminder, as well as their love of story telling and singing songs. They chat to their friends during their imaginary play activities whilst acting out their instigated scenarios. For example, they pretend the 'Postman Pat' doll has finished his work as 'he has delivered all of his letters' and they all 'go home for tea'. The children then use the role play area to sit with their friends and various dolls, pretending to eat the play food and chat about their day. The childminder skilfully uses effective questioning techniques during this type of play to encourage children to think about healthy eating. For example, they discuss the types of food they like to eat, that fish is very good and healthy for them and that they like to also have sweetcorn with this. As a result, children are developing their understanding of leading healthy lifestyles whilst engrossed in their chosen imaginary and creative play.

Children thrive as they enjoy an extensive range of physical activities and have daily opportunities for fresh air and exercise. They relish their time outdoors which includes taking part in various local outings such as visiting the parks and going on local walks. They learn the importance of good hygiene through effective hand washing practice and the childminder has good procedures in place to ensure the spread of infection is minimised. Children are kept safe as the childminder ensures they are supervised at all times and discussions are held about how they can keep themselves safe. For example, they learn how to safely attempt to climb up and down the large apparatus when visiting the park.

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?	1
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?	1
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:

- ensure parents and carers are provided with a written safeguarding procedure (Providing information to parents) (also applies to the voluntary part of the Childcare Register).

03/07/2009

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 under the compulsory part of the Childcare Register (Providing information to parents).

03/07/2009