

## Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique reference number</b>	136389
<b>Inspection date</b>	16/12/2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Yvonne Campbell
<b>Type of setting</b>	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 was registered in 1997. She lives with her husband and children, aged 13 and 16 years, in Longwell Green, South Gloucester, close to Longwell Green County School. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outdoor play. The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register, and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. She can care for a maximum of six children at any one time. She is currently minding a total of eight children: four on the Early Years Register and four on the compulsory Childcare Register. She occasionally works with an assistant.

The family has a hamster which is kept in an upstairs room. Minded children do not have contact with the pet.

The childminder regularly attends Orchard Tots baby and toddler group.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association. She has a Level 3 qualification Early Years Childcare and Education.

## **Overall effectiveness of the early years provision**

The childminder meets children's individual needs well, and children are happy and highly motivated as they play and learn in the spacious and well organised environment. Younger children are developing good social skills and show increasing confidence as they share their ideas with older children. The childminder maintains close links with parents, support services and a selection of other childminders in the area. This ensures she is aware of any changes which may impact on children's learning and welfare. The childminder evaluates her practice regularly and acts promptly to carry out any necessary changes to improve the provision.

## **What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?**

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

- further extend the procedures for assessing risks to children and assess their access to the kitchen when meals are being prepared.

## **The leadership and management of the early years provision**

The childminder has organised her practice extremely well. Children have access to a selection of stimulating resources. They select toys of their choice from the orderly toy storage cupboard located under the stairs. Children move safely between the lounge and the dining area as risks have been assessed and any hazards removed. For example, the childminder has erected a safety gate to

prevent children from having unsupervised access to the stairs and first floor. However, although it is generally a safe area, on occasion, children play in the kitchen when meals are being prepared.

Children's wellbeing is safeguarded and promoted as the childminder has a clear understanding of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board procedures and keeps the guidance accessible for reference.

Partnership with parents and others is very good, which enables the childminder to provide continuity of care for each child. She is aware of the types of activities they engage in when attending other settings and this knowledge is used by the childminder to develop a holistic view of each child and to plan and review adult-initiated activities. Children's learning is extended appropriately according to their stages of development. Parents receive ongoing information via a regular newsletter. They also have access to policies and procedures including the complaints procedure. There are regular reviews of written agreements of care. The childminder's assistant cares for children for short periods to allow the childminder to meet the needs of other children away from home, for example at school collection times. Written permission from parents is obtained to do so. The assistant has completed the appropriate checks and has a current first aid certificate.

## **The quality and standards of the early years provision**

The childminder has a thorough understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage framework and children have well thought-out learning experiences at the childminder's home, and also at group settings and on trips. They enjoy learning and show confidence taking on new challenges, seeking adult support when necessary. The childminder also plans some adult-initiated learning. For example, for a topic on Light and Darkness, the childminder arranged a trip to the lighting department of a large store. Parents later shared with the childminder their children's understanding of light and darkness. Children are developing their vocabulary at a good pace. They have opportunities to talk and discuss during play. The childminder has good listening skills and reflects on what children are saying to affirm their ideas. Children are aware of festivals and celebration times, and freely discuss forthcoming events such as Christmas and Santa's visit. Children are very interested in books and choose their favourite books from a well displayed selection, which they take to the childminder so she can read to them.

Children enjoy working on their chosen challenges. The childminder observes closely, limiting her intervention, while allowing children to try out different solutions to a problem, such as exploring how jigsaw puzzles fit together. They show a sense of achievement on completing the puzzle and show the childminder what they have done. Children count the pieces spontaneously, appropriately making corrections to mistakes they have made in reciting the number sequence. Children explore their creativity through music. They respond spontaneously to taped songs as they sing and move their bodies to the rhythm of songs. Other forms of active outdoor play takes place in the garden where there is also a playhouse for imaginary play. The childminder has appropriate systems in place for

observing and making assessments of each child's progress. All children have individual learning files which are accessible to their parents.

The welfare of children is promoted by the childminder's ongoing awareness of the welfare requirements, and she has systems and structures in place to ensure her practice is maintained to a high standard. Children's good health is promoted by regular intake of nutritious food and drink, and medication is administered safely after the childminder has obtained prior written permission from parents. Children who have serious food allergies receive good care as the childminder is aware of harmful allergies and she has completed training in administering emergency life saving medication. The premises is secure both at the front and the back. Children are familiar with the procedures for evacuating the building in an emergency.

## 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

<b>How effective is the provision in meeting the needs of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage?</b>	2
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	2
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	2

### Leadership and management

<b>How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?</b>	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

<b>How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?</b>	2
<b>How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?</b>	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](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)

## **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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## **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.