

## Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique reference number</b>	223622
<b>Inspection date</b>	09/12/2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Kathryn Mary Harding
<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 two children in Whitchurch, North Shropshire. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is an enclosed garden for outside play. Access to the property is gained via one step into the house.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding six children on the Early Years Register, on a part-time basis. The childminder can access local schools to take and collect children. She also offers care to children aged over five years. This provision is registered by Ofsted on the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and she attends the local parent and toddler group. The childminder supports children with learning difficulties and/ or disabilities. The family has a parrot.

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

High priority is put on the uniqueness of each child and the childminder is committed to meeting their individual needs and in doing so provides a high standard of care. The childminder has a wealth of child care experience and knows the children well so can identify the next stages in their learning. As a result children make good progress towards the early learning goals. The childminder is exceptionally committed to maintaining continuous improvement and has completed a very detailed self-evaluation of her present service and excellent ideas of how to bring about further improvement. She has a successful partnership with parents and works well with others to provide continuity of care for the children.

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

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

- develop the risk assessments to cover anything with which a child may come into contact; this particularly relates to hygiene routines.

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

The childminder provides a very warm, welcoming environment for the children in her care and has a good knowledge of how children learn and develop. She is well-organised and children benefit greatly from their time spent with her. They have written comments about what they particularly enjoy doing at the childminder's house and state that they have lots of fun. The childminder attends regular workshops and training and supports the children well as she has a developing awareness of the welfare requirements. She is conscientious and adheres to her conditions of registration, closely supervises the children and knows of her responsibility to ensure all people living in the house are vetted. The childminder's

knowledge of how to deal with safe guarding issues is secure with all the required documentation in place. She has written risk assessments in place for most aspects of the environment, but this does not include hygiene routines.

The childminder has a high regard for continuous improvement as she is continually reflecting on how to improve her service. The children enjoy continuity of care because she works very closely with parents. Parental comments received stated that they were extremely happy with the care the childminder provided and that the children are very happy. They are made to feel very welcome with information displayed for them as they enter the premises. The childminder actively encourages a two-way flow of information between herself and the parents. She provides them with monthly newsletters and a wealth of information along with accompanying them on school visits and invitations to social events. She provides them with a daily diary if they wish as a medium for communication and shares the children's achievements with the parents daily and through parents' meetings.

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

Children are welcomed into a bright and child-friendly environment, that is all on one level. Furniture, resources and equipment are at an appropriate height for children, helping to promote their independence and self-help skills. The childminder places high priority on keeping the children safe and on them learning about safety. For example, as they take part in fire drills and talk about the importance of rail safety. They enjoy nutritious meals and snacks which they choose and menus on display show a range of healthy options on offer. Fresh fruit is delivered weekly and the children can choose what they want to eat from the 'fruitman'. The childminder has achieved a Level 3 qualification in healthy eating so helping to encourage children to adopt healthy eating habits. They can help themselves to a drink of water from the water dispenser at any time, so ensuring they remain hydrated.

Children enjoy an excellent variety of stimulating play experiences and activities both indoors and outside and these support their learning and development very well. The childminder is a highly experienced child carer who understands the importance of purposeful play. She is able to engage them in activities and appropriately supports their learning through encouragement, praise and role modelling. Routines include a balance of child-initiated and adult-led activities. The childminder successfully judges when it is appropriate to let a child play independently and when to support and intervene. She knows the children very well and offers them lots of choice. Through observations and assessments she is able to identify the next stages of development.

Children are very happy, confident and settled. As they play a snail game they learn to take turns. Their understanding of right and wrong is increased as they encouraged to be respectful in their interactions with each other and good manners and sharing are promoted. Lots of praise and encouragement is used with the children, so promoting their self-esteem. The childminder continually chatters to the children asking open-ended questions so extending the children's learning

and helping them to make connections.

Children gain an appreciation of their environment as they go on regular local outings and learn about recycling as they put items in the recycling box. They learn to have respect for other cultures as they have Polish words on signs and have tasted Polish food. They take part in fund-raising events such as the sponsored walk for the meningitis appeal so they learn about helping others. They go to toddlers group and the library where they meet other children so they can learn to socialise. They enjoy playing in the 'Magic snow', jelly and snowflakes and choosing what arts and crafts materials they want after collecting local supermarket vouchers. They look at different colours of objects and talk about numbers as they listen to the story about five little ducks.

## 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.	1

### 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?	1
How well does the setting work in partnership with parents and others?	1
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?	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](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 registration or 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.