

## Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique reference number</b>	124094
<b>Inspection date</b>	20/10/2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Jill Nugent
<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 registered in 1999. She is registered on the Early Years register and compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. She lives with her husband and one child, aged eleven, in a house in Hoddesdon. The house has good access at ground floor level. The whole of the house is used for childminding and there is a secure garden for outdoor play. The family has a pet dog.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children under eight at any one time. Currently she is minding five children, four of whom are within the Early Years Foundation Stage and one who is on the childcare register. The childminder has close links with her local nursery school. She is a member of the National Childminding Association and coordinates a local childminding group.

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

The childminder offers high quality provision for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage. She has set up a stimulating environment where children are well cared for and have fun joining in a wide variety of activities. She ensures that interesting learning experiences are available to all children and through her innovative support and interaction children make significant progress. She is committed to the continual improvement of her practice through self evaluation and extra training. Her emphasis on meeting children's individual needs through working with parents and other providers is an additional strength.

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

To further improve the high quality early years provision the registered person should consider:

- further develop the use of observations to extend children in their individual learning.

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

The childminder has clear and concise written policies in place and all her records are very well maintained. She uses her qualifications and experience to good effect and children benefit from her excellent organisation. Consequently, they are always happily involved in activities and feel valued in her care. She is proactive in seeking training opportunities in order to extend her knowledge and understanding. For example, she is at present attending courses on promoting and assessing children's learning in different areas. She evaluates her own practice, highlighting areas for development and working on these so as to continually improve her provision.

The childminder has appropriate procedures in place with regard to safeguarding.

She has the necessary information to enable her to seek advice if she has any concerns about children. Adults living on the premises, and regular visitors to the house, have all been vetted. There is a very effective working partnership with parents and carers. Parents receive useful information about her provision in a welcome pack. She liaises closely with them in order to be able to cater for any particular needs. She shares information through a notice board, daily diaries and children's observation records, thereby enabling parents to become involved in their children's learning. All parents are highly satisfied with the care and activities on offer.

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

The childminder provides a stimulating and extremely well-resourced environment which enables children to make choices and develop relevant skills in a wide variety of play situations. For instance, children move excitedly from sticking pictures to outdoor activities and then to model making. The childminder is very aware of their learning needs and ensures all resources are easily accessible so that children can follow up their own interests. She provides excellent support, enhancing their play through her involvement and conversation, and encouraging their independence. As a result children quickly become confident and enjoy the freedom to express their own ideas as they explore and create. Young children have much fun and delight in switching from one activity to another as their curiosity takes them, all the while developing relationships and learning respect for others.

The childminder has a comprehensive understanding of the six learning areas, using them to plan interesting learning experiences based on themes. For example, in Autumn children go for walks, share seasonal stories and use leaves and fruits to make pictures. The childminder is building up a collection of topic webs so that children have a good balance of activities within each theme. She has introduced an effective system for observing and assessing their progress using photographs and written notes as evidence. She sets ongoing targets for individual children and is considering ways of including these in her plans so as to continually extend children's learning. Her adaptable approach enables children to develop many useful skills for the future in literacy, numeracy and information technology.

The childminder prioritises children's well-being and promotes their welfare successfully. She carries out risk assessments of her house and garden, taking appropriate action to minimise any potential risks to children. All outings are also risk assessed to ensure children's safety. Children are becoming aware of good hygiene practice. The childminder offers children a healthy diet and involves children in cooking activities which offer them opportunities to learn more about healthy eating. She supervises children closely whilst they are in her care and, as a result, children learn to keep themselves safe in different situations. Children have a real sense of belonging in her home and their personal independence is exemplary. They respond positively to the childminder's requests, and instructions, and behave responsibly at all times.

## Annex A: record of inspection judgements

### The key inspection judgements and what they mean

*Outstanding: this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality*

*Good: this aspect of the provision is strong*

*Satisfactory: this aspect of the provision is sound*

*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>	Outstanding
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	Outstanding
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	Outstanding

### Leadership and management

<b>How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?</b>	Outstanding
How effective is the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement?	Good
How well does the setting work in partnership with parents and others?	Outstanding
How well are children safeguarded?	Good

### Quality and standards

<b>How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?</b>	Outstanding
<b>How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?</b>	Outstanding
How well are children helped to stay safe?	Good
How well are children helped to be healthy?	Good
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	Outstanding
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	Outstanding
How well are children helped develop skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being?	Outstanding

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.