

## Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique reference number</b>	121580
<b>Inspection date</b>	01/12/2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Joanne Lindsey Caswell
<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 has been registered since 1995. She lives with her husband and adult children near Redhill, Surrey. The premises are accessed easily. Children have access to a lounge, dining area, cloakroom and conservatory on the ground floor. The first floor is used for sleep purposes only. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The childminder has a dog and two cats. She is registered on the Early Years register to care for a maximum of six children. She regularly works with an assistant and when working together is registered to care for a maximum of seven children at any one time. Registration also includes both the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. There are currently five children aged under eight years on roll.

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

There is effective provision in place to ensure children's individual needs are clearly recognised and understood. The childminder knows the children very well and ensures their welfare and safety is promoted at all times. Children make satisfactory progress in their learning and development and the childminder is beginning to make effective use of self-evaluation in order to assess her practice and enhance the learning provision for children. Partnerships with parents and carers are generally effective and the childminder is beginning to develop closer partnerships with other providers delivering the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS).

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

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

- develop the partnerships between children's parents/carers and other providers of the Early Years Foundation Stage to ensure information regarding children's learning and development is shared appropriately
- develop the use of observation to ensure children's learning and development is fully evaluated and their next stages in development and learning are identified and planned for
- develop the use of written information to help parents develop understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage

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

The childminder is beginning to recognise her own strengths and weaknesses and is able to identify possible training needs, particularly in helping her to develop her understanding of how to plan for and assess children's learning and development. She supports children's health and welfare well and ensures her assistants have a secure understanding of children's individual needs. Parents and carers are very happy with the standards of care and written references support this. The

childminder ensures information is exchanged on a daily basis regarding children's care routines and the childminder offers parents plenty of support and advice, such as on feeding and sleeping routines for younger children. However, at present, limited written information is available to parents/carers regarding the childminder's policies and procedures and further information regarding the EYFS. As a result, parents/carers have few opportunities to contribute towards children's learning and share their own knowledge of their child's current needs. The childminder has not yet established strong links with the children's pre-schools, to ensure information gathered from assessment from other providers of the EYFS is appropriately shared.

The childminder is developing her planning and assessment procedures and is aware of how to tailor activities and daily routines in response to children's own ideas and suggestions. She carries out regular observations, although these are not fully evaluated. As a result, information obtained from assessment is not carried forward to future planning.

Risk assessments are used well and the childminder has a good understanding of how to protect children and keep them safe, both within the home and whilst on outings. Appropriate checks are completed on household members and the childminder ensures children are never left unsupervised in the care of adults who have not been vetted.

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

Children are very happy and settled in the childminder's care. They benefit from warm relationships and the childminder interacts positively with all children. She knows children exceptionally well and is very 'in-tune' with their personal needs. She recognises the individual characteristics and play preferences of all children and provides for these accordingly on a daily basis. As a result, children thoroughly enjoy their time spent with the childminder.

There is good provision for children to develop a healthy lifestyle. The childminder's home is very clean and well-maintained and children enjoy plenty of activities outside. They play in the childminder's garden and use resources, such as ride-on toys and swings. They regularly visit the local parks and enjoy taking the childminder's dog for a walk. Good measures are taken within the childminder's home to protect children from infection and prevent the spread of illness.

Children develop a good awareness of safety. The childminder explains hazards to children and helps them to learn how to play safely and develop awareness of road safety and 'stranger/danger' whilst on outings.

Children develop very positive relationships with one another. They make strong friendships and feel very secure within the childminder's home. The childminder clearly listens to children and values their ideas and suggestions, often adapting the routine to accommodate these.

There is a wide selection of toys, games and activities available to children which

they choose from freely. Children particularly enjoy sharing books with one another and develop good skills in literacy as they become familiar with stories and use language effectively to engage in lengthy discussions and conversations. Children develop positive attitudes towards learning as the childminder utilises daily experiences, such as going to post a parcel at the post office, to help children develop awareness of the local area and understand the role of others. This helps to broaden children's experiences and develop their interests and curiosity. As a result, children benefit from practical activities which encourage their learning.

## 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>	3
How effective is the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement?	3
How well does the setting work in partnership with parents and others?	3
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>	3
<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.