

## Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique reference number</b>	256357
<b>Inspection date</b>	10/02/2009
<b>Inspector</b>	Tessa Margaret Betts

<b>Type of setting</b>	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 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 1992. She lives with her husband and adult daughter in a two bedroomed house on the outskirts of Norwich, close to shops, parks, schools and public transport links. Childminding takes place primarily on the ground floor with children accessing toilet facilities upstairs. There is an enclosed garden suitable for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children under eight years at any one time, of whom no more than three may be in the early years age range. She is currently minding two children in this age group on a part-time basis. She also offers care to children over five years to 12 years. The provision is registered by Ofsted on the Early Years Register and the compulsory part of the Childcare Register. The childminder collects children from the local school and playgroup and attends a carer and toddler group on a regular basis.

## Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is satisfactory. Children are cared for in a relaxed environment where they are happy and settled. Children are valued and respected and the childminder works in close partnership with parents to provide an inclusive service where overall children's individual needs are met. Despite weaknesses in some systems children's welfare is suitably promoted and they generally make sound progress in their learning and development. The childminder is beginning to consider ways to self-evaluate her practice and shows some commitment and capacity to improve positive outcomes for children in her care.

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

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

- develop the observation and assessment arrangements to help plan the next steps in children's learning and use this to inform future planning
- develop an effective self-evaluation system in order to highlight strengths and address weaknesses to improve practice.

To fully meet the specific requirements of the EYFS, the registered person must:

- maintain a written risk assessment on the premises and on outings, detailing when and by whom they have been checked (Suitable premises, environment and equipment)

03/03/2009

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

The childminder is generally organised and keeps suitable records which ensures that children are cared for appropriately. Essential records for managing attendance, accidents and medication are kept up-to-date to support the childminder in keeping children safe and managing their health needs. Children's welfare is safeguarded as the childminder has updated her knowledge of child protection issues and has the relevant information to hand to make an appropriate referral. Whilst she is able to provide children with a safe environment within the home by taking appropriate steps to reduce hazards, she has not maintained a record of these particular aspects or identified potential hazards encountered on regular outings away from the home to ensure children remain safe at all times.

The childminder has undertaken various training courses offered by the local authority which has enabled her to improve her childcare skills. All previous recommendations identified at the last inspection have been addressed. Whilst the childminder has started to understand the Early Years Foundation Stage much of her practice is not yet fully embedded which means that her capacity to improve further is limited by this. The childminder has not yet developed useful systems to monitor and evaluate her practice. Consequently she has a less clear focus for future developments. The childminder builds sound relationships with parents and keeps them generally well informed about her setting, their child's well-being and what they have been doing. Through discussion parents are informed about the complaints procedure and have access to the relevant contact details should they wish to raise a concern. The childminder keeps abreast with what children are doing at school so that she can further support their learning experiences whilst in her care.

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

The childminder provides a child-friendly, welcoming environment, where children are able to freely choose and enjoy a suitable range of resources and activities. Children settle well and have friendly relationships with the childminder. They are confident in approaching her and able to convey their individual wants and needs. Their welfare is fostered appropriately. They learn about keeping healthy through engaging in sound procedures, such as washing hands after using the toilet and before they eat meals. Parents are encouraged by the childminder to provide healthy options in lunchboxes and this positive attitude is reinforced in the range of snacks she provides. Activities provided, such as growing vegetables, encourage children to try new foods to extend their taste buds which further supports their healthy growth and development. Children are appropriately cared for when they are ill. The childminder is able to respond effectively as she has a well-stocked first aid kit accessible and recent updated knowledge of first aid to underpin her practice. Older children are learning to keep themselves safe by engaging in regular fire drills with the childminder.

The childminder is providing a daily programme of activities that she believes will stimulate and interest the children. She understands their individual likes and

dislikes and how she can engage their attention. The childminder allows children to express themselves and does not interfere with their play unless asked to do so. When a young child begins to explore their face in a mirror and looks for reassurance from the childminder, they are greeted warmly and encouraged to sit on the childminder's knee as they talk about what they are seeing. Children enjoy the close relationship that exists to support their sense of security as they sit relaxed having their hair brushed. Children enjoy a variety of activities to support their learning. They are able to extend their physical skills as they practise their growing mobility in a safe environment or extend this in large open spaces when they visit the local park. Their language is developing as they look at books and enjoy being read to. Within routine activities children are encouraged to count as the childminder sings simple number rhymes. Children are able to explore cause and effect as they use a variety of press button toys and show fascination as they put small items in different sized boxes and take them out again. Whilst each day is informally planned by the childminder, she has yet to develop her strategy for observing and assessing the children's achievements and how she can further their learning progress.

## 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>	3
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	3
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	3

### 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?	3

### 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>	3
How well are children helped to stay safe?	3
How well are children helped to be healthy?	3
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	3
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	3
How well are children helped develop skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being?	3

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:

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:

- devise and implement a written statement of procedures to be followed for the protection of children, intended to safeguard the children being cared for from abuse or neglect (Arrangements for Safeguarding Children) 03/03/2009
- devise a written statement of procedures to be followed in relation to complaints which relate to the requirements of the Childcare Register (Procedures for dealing with complaints) 03/03/2009

## **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**

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action.

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.