

## Inspection report for early years provision

---

<b>Unique reference number</b>	260339
<b>Inspection date</b>	22/01/2009
<b>Inspector</b>	Jo Rowley
<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).

Children only attend this setting before and/or after the school day and/or during the school holidays. The judgements in this report reflect the quality of early years provision offered to children during those periods.

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 lives with her husband and two children both aged eight years old in Arlesey, Bedfordshire. The whole of the downstairs and an upstairs bedroom of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. Accessibility is up one step. The family has three cats.

The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and on both the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. She is registered to care for three children in the Early Years Foundation Stage and there are currently three children attending, all of whom are part-time, within this age group.

The childminder also offers care to children aged five to eight years. Children occupying these places share the same facilities as the children in the Early Years age group. There is currently one child on roll within this age group.

The childminder has made links with parents and the local school.

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

Overall, the childminder provides very well for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage. She offers a safe, secure and very welcoming environment and the meaningful support she provides ensures that children are thriving in their environment. The partnership she has with parents and the local school is a key strength and greatly contributes to ensuring that the individual needs of all children are met. The childminder's thoughtful approach to planning ensures that children's interests and development are promoted and that they enjoy their time with her. However, their next steps are not consistently planned for. Her procedures for monitoring and self-evaluating her practice means that she has a clear understanding of her strengths and areas for improvement. Therefore, she is able to make effective changes to improve the daily care and experiences for children.

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

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

- develop planning to ensure that children's next steps are included
- obtain parental permission for the seeking of any emergency medical treatment or advice.

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

The childminder has a range of well written policies and procedures to safeguard children in her care. She has a comprehensive safeguarding policy, completes

regular risk assessments within the home and for each outing the children take part in. She regularly plans activities that are age and stage appropriate and takes the children's interests and ideas into consideration. The childminder fully involves parents and has a positive and meaningful attitude to their feedback, making changes where necessary. Parents state that they are very happy with the warm and caring atmosphere the childminder provides and the care their children receive.

Children are offered effective support, enabling them to make good progress in all areas of their learning. Their individual development is well promoted because the childminder has practical procedures in place to monitor and evaluate their learning and progress. The childminder's professional and friendly approach to maintaining effective partnerships with parents and the local school ensure that children's care is promoted consistently. For example, the childminder has regular contact with the local school where minded children attend. She makes sure that she is aware of their activity plans, often extending these at home, and also helps out where possible. For example, she has helped to make children's costumes for school plays.

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

Children are consistently offered a wide range of opportunities that support them in making very good progress in all areas of learning and development. The planning is well organised to ensure that all areas of learning are covered and children's individual needs are taken into account. For example, individual observations are carried out on a regular basis. However, the plans do not include the observed next steps that will extend children's development. Assessments are used to record children's starting points and this enables the childminder to track each child's ongoing progress. The childminder ensures that her weekly planning offers children a balanced and broad range of activities, both inside and outside the home. These activities are fun, enjoyable and fully enable children to learn through their play and daily experiences. For example, children are currently learning about space. They have created their own pictures of different planets and these are displayed for parents to see.

The childminder actively involves herself in the planned and child-led activities. An example of this is where one child shows interest in a hand held musical toy, the childminder proceeds to get out some other musical toys and interacts with the child as they make different sounds together. The childminder thoughtfully organises the wonderful environment children use and provides a dedicated play room, with colourful jigsaw print flooring. Children can self-select resources which are appropriate for their ages and stages of development and there are mirrors on the wall at different heights so that children of all ages can see themselves playing. Activities and opportunities offered are easily adapted to ensure that all children can participate in what is offered. Children have built up a strong bond with the childminder who interacts and fully involves herself in their play. Children respond well to the childminder, they are happy and clearly settled in the relaxed atmosphere.

Children's health and welfare is generally promoted as the childminder takes some steps to minimise the spread of infection. For example, toys and resources are washed on a weekly basis and the home is cleaned before children arrive each day. However, permission is not in place for the seeking of any necessary emergency medical treatment or advice, affecting children's immediate welfare. Children are cared for in a safe and secure environment because the childminder has a very good understanding of this area. For example, she regularly carries out a comprehensive risk assessment of her home, outside garden and all outings and offers clear explanations which help children gain an understanding of taking care of themselves and others. A regular evacuation procedure is carried out with the children and all fire exits are clearly marked, promoting children's understanding of staying safe. The childminder ensures that she carries a first aid kit and all emergency contacts when out of the home and she has a strong understanding of issues relating to safeguarding children.

## 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.	3

### 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?	3
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
---	-----

The provider confirms that the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register are:	Met
--	-----

## **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.