

## Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique reference number</b>	118285
<b>Inspection date</b>	25/02/2009
<b>Inspector</b>	Nigel Lindsay Smith
<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 1995. She lives with her husband in Portishead, North Somerset, close to shops, parks, schools and public transport links. The whole of the childminder's home is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed back garden. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding three children under five years. She also offers care to children aged over five years to 11 years. This provision is registered by Ofsted on the Early Years Register, compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. The childminder is registered to work with an assistant and at such times may care for no more than nine children under eight years at any one time. The childminder provides overnight care. The childminder takes children to parks, zoos, woods and to a range of groups. She has two dogs and a tortoise as pets.

The childminder is an affiliated member of the Avon and Somerset Constabulary Network and an accredited member of North Somerset Childminding Network.

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

Overall the quality of care is outstanding. The childminder has an excellent understanding of how to identify the needs of individual children, and ensures all children are fully included in her setting. The childminder provides very safe and secure care for children who she knows very well. Children make very good progress in her care as she has an excellent working knowledge of the Early Years Foundation Stage and is highly committed to continually improving her practice. The childminder works very closely with parents and others to identify and meet the individual needs of each child.

## **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 developing the partnerships with parents in supporting and extending children's learning and development

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

The childminder provides excellent care for children in her welcoming and very well organised home. She uses her comprehensive knowledge of child development and the Early Years Foundation Stage to inform her practice. Children's health, well-being and safety is assured through clearly written and robust policies and procedures. Children are effectively safeguarded because the childminder has an comprehensive knowledge of child protection issues and her policy and procedure meets the guidance of the Local Safeguarding Children Board. Children are safe in

the setting and on outings due to the childminder's extensive risk assessments, covering in detail all places regularly visited. Equipment is available to prevent unnecessary accidents, such as a gate across the kitchen entrance.

The childminder is highly committed to ongoing professional development and regularly attends training to update her practice. She demonstrates an excellent capacity for maintaining continual improvement and has addressed recommendations from her previous inspection. She has embraced the Early Years Foundation Stage and uses children's interests to plan effectively for their future learning. She places a high priority on establishing good relationships with parents and providing them with relevant information, for example regularly emailing photos of their children's activities.

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

Children's learning and development is promoted extremely well through an exciting range of activities provided by the childminder to cover all areas of learning. She makes regular observations of children and records their progress. Through the careful observations of children's learning and achievements the childminder supports and extends their learning from their own interests. Children enjoy learning through planned activities, such as an outing to the woods, where they safely learn to whittle wood with potato peelers. They also benefit from the spontaneous interventions by the childminder when responding to their interests. For example when a child finds a frog in the garden the childminder produces cards with frogs from her extensive range of resources, many home-made, and develops a theme of growth cycles, bringing in lettuces and beans planted previously with the child. Colours, "tallest/smallest", identifying name cards for caterpillars and counting cards back into their container are all included skilfully to cover different areas of learning as the child pursues the topic with great fascination.

Children's physical development is promoted though using the garden, trips to parks and regular visits to a group where they use 'sit-and-rides'. They explore with excitement the 'dark tunnel', one of a range of items regularly hired by the childminder to provide variety and stimulation. They sit comfortably with the childminder on the settee as they listen to a topical story obtained by the childminder about pancakes. The childminder engages enthusiastically with children, tuning into their imagination as they initiate role play through using soft toys to respond to the story.

Children are encouraged and enabled to choose their own resources to support their play from easily accessible boxes and shelving and this helps them become imaginative and independent learners. Children make excellent progress in relation to their ages and stages of development.

Children begin to learn self-care skills, for example beginning to understand about the need to wash hands, saying 'it's because of germs'. They benefit from very healthy and nutritious food and drinks and they learn about healthy eating, keenly completing the 'five a day' chart. Children behave very well because the

childminder makes excellent relationships with them, stimulating their interests and respecting their individuality. The childminder builds good relationships with parents, who comment very positively on her practice. Children learn about how to keep safe, for example by practising road safety when they are on outings.

## 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>	1
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>	1
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?	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>	1
<b>How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?</b>	1
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?	1
How well are children helped develop skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being?	1

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**

Since the last inspection Ofsted received one complaint on 25 June 2008 that required the childminder to take action. The inspector viewed the childminder's attendance register and found there were some inaccuracies in the recording and an action was set for the childminder to maintain an accurate record of children's attendance that includes times of arrival and departure for all children. We received a suitable response to this action and the registered person remains registered with Ofsted.

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.