

## Inspection report for early years provision

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| <b>Unique reference number</b> | 140931              |
| <b>Inspection date</b>         | 02/03/2009          |
| <b>Inspector</b>               | Brenda Joan Flewitt |
| <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 1992. She lives on the first floor of a detached house, accessed by a flight of stairs. Her home is situated on the outskirts of Weymouth, Dorset. Minded children have use of a dedicated play room, an open plan kitchen-dining room and a bathroom. Sleeping facilities are provided in the spare bedroom. There is an enclosed outdoor patio area available which is accessed directly from the dining room. The children also have use of an enclosed, mainly grassed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. A maximum of six children may attend at any one time. There are currently two children on roll in the early years age group. There are no children currently attending who are cared for overnight.

The childminder holds an NVQ at level 3 in Early Years Care and Education. She is the chairperson of the local childminding group and is a member of the Dorset and Poole Childminding Association. The childminder is registered on the Dorset Quality Improvement Scheme.

## Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The overall quality of the provision is outstanding. Children are cared for in a safe, secure and very well organised welcoming environment, where the childminder knows them extremely well as individuals. The excellent partnership with parents, together with the support the childminder provides as children play, contributes to them making very good progress in their learning and development. Children participate in a broad range of activities and develop a very good knowledge and understanding of the world around them through a wide variety of outings and meaningful experiences. The childminder is committed to continuous improvement through ongoing self-evaluation, regular training and her participation in a quality assurance scheme.

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

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

- continuing to develop the outside areas to further promote all aspects of children's learning and development.

## The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder implements effective policies and procedures, which are shared with parents, to fully promote children's welfare, safety and development. She carries out comprehensive risk assessments so that children play in a safe

environment both in the home and on outings. Children's medication and accidents are well managed, and all documentation and records are in place, very well organised and completed accurately. The childminder has a secure understanding of safeguarding children and the procedures to follow with concerns. She keeps her knowledge up-to-date through regular training which helps to protect children from harm.

The childminder promotes excellent partnerships with parents. She provides a friendly, supportive and professional service. Parents are supplied with a wealth of information about the setting by way of written policies and displays. There are daily opportunities for sharing information verbally to ensure that each child's needs are met. The childminder seeks parents' views about the provision and includes their comments when assessing children's development, and planning for their progress.

The childminder is committed to developing her role and continuous improvement. She has completed a self-evaluation document and uses this as an ongoing system to help identify strengths and areas for improvement in the outcomes for children. The childminder has registered on the 'Dorset Quality Improvement Scheme' which involves her practice being monitored, which helps to ensure that all areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) are promoted well. She regularly attends training courses, or arranges speakers for the childminding group meetings, which updates her knowledge in various areas of child care.

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

Children play and learn in a calm, caring and fun environment where they are very happy and settled in the care of the childminder. She values them highly as individuals and makes them feel welcome and part of her home. Children establish very good relationships with their childminder and each other. From a young age, children learn to take turns and share resources. The childminder makes expectations clear, therefore, children develop a good understanding of respecting others. They know how to behave in various situations such as waiting in a post office queue or choosing a meal from the menu in a café. Children receive continuous praise and encouragement for their effort and achievements, which helps boost their self-esteem. Children are encouraged to learn skills in practical activities which promotes their independence. For example, two-year-olds help set up a 'picnic' area in the home for snack time, and start to manage their own boots and shoes when going outside.

The childminder has a secure understanding of the EYFS and how to promote children's learning through play and purposeful everyday activities. They enjoy a broad range of experiences both inside and out, which help them develop and make very good progress. The childminder has implemented an effective observation and assessment system which is clearly linked to the six areas of learning and includes parents' comments. She uses this information, and her knowledge of how each child learns, to plan for their progress. Children receive positive interaction from the childminder who joins in their play and talks with them to help develop their language, recall and problem solving skills. Children

develop an awareness of number and shapes through stories, role play outings and counting objects during play. For example, a two-year-old likes to help the childminder during a visit to a shop, choosing items, paying at the till and carrying shopping home. A favourite story such as 'Goldilocks' encourages children to count, compare sizes and join in familiar phrases. They enjoy acting out real life and imaginary situations through role play which helps to compound children's understanding. Children use their senses to explore a wide variety of materials, both inside and out, such as manipulating various coloured play dough with their hands and tools, or transferring and moulding sand.

Children's health is very well promoted. They have daily opportunities for fresh air and exercise when they practise large muscle skills such as manoeuvring wheeled vehicles, rolling and bouncing balls and completing intended actions to songs. Children learn about making healthy choices in what they eat through the good example set by the childminder, discussion and planned activities which involve tasting foods from around the world. Children's days include an extensive range of outings where they develop social skills, meet and learn to respect other people, use alternative equipment and explore their local area. They learn about staying safe when they are out and about such as safe routines for crossing roads, agreed boundaries and the dangers of talking to strangers. The childminder's regular contact with other childminders means that children get to know other children and develop trust in familiar adults. Visits to venues like the Sea Life Centre, the beach and farms encourage children's curiosity in animals and nature. All this helps children to develop a positive attitude to the world around them.

## 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?   | 1 |
| The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.   | 1 |

### Leadership and management

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|---|---|
| <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?                            | 1 |
| How well are children safeguarded?  | 1 |

### Quality and standards

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|---|---|
| <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?  | 1 |
| How well are children helped to be healthy?   | 1 |
| 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**

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| 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.