

## Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique reference number</b>	139239
<b>Inspection date</b>	24/02/2009
<b>Inspector</b>	Samantha Powis
<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 has been registered since 1983. She lives with her husband and one grown-up son in a house in the village of Puddletown, six miles from the town of Dorchester in Dorset. All areas on the ground floor are used by the children and include a spacious lounge, kitchen and conservatory. Two bedrooms on the first floor are included in the registration to provide quiet areas for rest and the bathroom is also on the first floor. There is a secure rear garden area for outside play. Access to the premises is via one step to the front door. The premises are close to the forest, nature trails and parks. The childminder collects children from local schools and pre-schools. The family have three pet dogs to which children have supervised access.

The childminder is registered to care for up to 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 also registered to work with an assistant. When together, they may care for up to eight children, six of whom may be in the early years age group. She is currently minding eight children, six of these are in the early years age group. This provision is registered by Ofsted on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register.

## Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall, the quality of the provision is good. The childminder has an excellent awareness of children's individual needs, which means they are very happy, settled and making good progress in their learning and development. Children are confident due to the familiar routines and are made to feel part of the family. Children are safe and secure, and in general, their ongoing welfare is supported through effective use of documentation. The childminder constantly considers the ever changing needs of the children she cares for and reviews her own practice to ensure positive experiences for all children.

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

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

- further develop the systems for monitoring children's development and progress to ensure they are fully supported in all areas of learning to build on what they know and can already do
- ensure records are completed promptly and with sufficient detail to enable them to be used to fully support children's ongoing welfare.

## The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder is highly organised which means the needs of children and families are supported very well. The childminder dedicates her time and full

attention to supporting the children throughout the day. She offers them support as they play, encouraging them to tackle new challenges with confidence, and follows familiar routines which ensure children feel settled and secure. For example, children follow a comforting routine before they are put down for nap, making this a happy time for them.

Children are safe and secure in the childminder's home. They are reminded about simple rules to help keep themselves safe when they are playing. For example, they are quietly reminded not to run inside as they might bump into each other or slip. The childminder regularly assesses the hazards associated with indoor and outdoor play, and is vigilant about safety at all times. The childminder uses documentation generally well to support children's ongoing welfare, however, occasionally records such as the daily register and the accident reports lack detail to make them fully effective. The childminder has a good knowledge of safeguarding issues and is clear about her role and responsibility regarding child protection concerns. This helps her to support children's ongoing welfare.

The childminder values the importance of working closely with parents in order to meet children's individual needs and has started to link with other settings at which the children attend. Parents are encouraged to stay and discuss their children's progress and well-being at the end of each day and are given daily diaries which include information about children's routines and achievements. Feedback from parents demonstrates their high levels of satisfaction with the care their children receive and they praise particular elements, such as the flexible and supportive approach of the childminder.

The childminder works closely with her assistants and regularly reflects on the service they provide. She is open to new ideas and ways of working to benefit the children she cares for. She attends training where possible, and uses documents such as the Early Years Foundation Stage framework and guidance to develop her own skills and knowledge and help her identify areas for improvement. Following the last inspection, positive steps have been taken to improve children's ongoing welfare through gaining more detailed information from parents.

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

Children are very happy, settled and confident. They engage enthusiastically in the many activities available and clearly enjoy the warm company of the childminder and each other. They behave very well and through sensitive support from the childminder, they learn to take turns and share the toys. They learn to be thoughtful towards each other, often imitating the caring approach of the childminder. For example, older children verbally encourage younger ones to eat some more of their lunch, using a calm and quiet tone as they speak.

Children are encouraged to develop a healthy lifestyle. They regularly play outdoors in the fresh air and go for walks in the local forest. These experiences also support children in developing an awareness of how they can support their own safety. For example, when coming across a gorse bush, the childminder uses the opportunity to talk to the children about being mindful of the prickly parts of

the plant. Other outings include visits to places of interest such as the sea life centre and the play park, where children have opportunities to increase their knowledge and understanding of the world around them. Children have a very good understanding of the importance of good hygiene routines and know that they should wash their hands after using the toilet and before eating. Children enjoy regular, healthy, nutritious meals and snacks, and are encouraged to drink plenty of water throughout the day to keep their energy and hydration levels high.

Children settle quickly to the play opportunities available. They enjoy exploring a wide range of resources which are appropriate to their age and stage of development and reflect their individual interests and preferences. The childminder is actively involved and promotes children's confidence and self-esteem through this involvement. For example, she reassures and gives encouragement to children who are struggling to dress the dolls, allowing them to complete the task successfully. The children feel proud as they are praised for their achievement and perseverance. Children use numbers during everyday practical situations and their numeracy skills are supported effectively by the childminder. For example, as they eat their lunch, the children and the childminder estimate and then count how many spoonfuls of yoghurt are in the pot.

The childminder knows the children very well. The childminder has not yet established a formal system to record children's progress or monitor activities, however, she observes children as they play and uses this information to help her plan activities that will interest them and support their learning and development.

## 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>	2
How effective is the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement?	2
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
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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.