

## Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique reference number</b>	113961
<b>Inspection date</b>	04/08/2009
<b>Inspector</b>	Bridget Richardson
<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 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 was registered in 1994. She lives with one grown up child and one child aged 11 in Henfield, West Sussex. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The family have two rabbits and goldfish as pets.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five 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. She also offers care to children aged over five years to 11 years. This provision is registered by Ofsted on the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register.

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

Overall, the quality of the provision is good. Children are happy and settled in the caring and friendly home environment. Their welfare is given careful consideration. The childminder takes time to get to know the children and their families well, enabling her to meet all children's individual needs as they make progress towards the early learning goals. Clear policies and procedures are implemented effectively to ensure the children's welfare is promoted successfully. Her methods to support the continuous improvement of her provision have a positive impact on the quality of children's learning and welfare.

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

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

- develop hand drying facilities to minimise the risk of cross infection
- ensure information maintained in the accident book is confidential and that a record of incidents that occur with children is kept
- ensure that children's next steps are being clearly identified and used in leading future planning and develop systems for working in partnership with others carers.

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

The provider's reflective and pro-active attitude to improve benefits all children who attend her provision. She has a good awareness of the areas she wishes to develop. These are identified through discussion and her self-evaluation process. The childminder continually updates and refreshes her professional knowledge.

The provider welcomes all children and ensures they are all included to the best of their ability and needs. Information about the Early Years Framework is available for parents. Children's progress, however, is not yet recorded and partnerships with other carers are not entirely established to ensure individual children's

developmental needs are consistently met.

Documentation are generally well organised and the childminder has devised comprehensive and effective written policies and procedures that underpin her practice. Required documents including complaints procedures and risk assessments are clearly maintained and available. However, accident records are not maintained confidentially and incidents that occur with children are not recorded. Children's personal records are securely held. Parents are well informed of her procedures and information is exchanged daily. The childminder works closely with parents to ensure children's individual care and welfare requirements are met. Children are consistently cared for in a secure environment. The childminder has a good understanding of safeguarding procedures and contact numbers are accessible should she have concerns. Parents are aware of her professional role to safeguard children.

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

Children are happy and confident in the childminder's care. They enjoy the combination of free choice and planned activities offered and actively seek out the childminder for help and support. Children benefit from the childminder's relaxed manner and encouragement as they play. Communication skills are encouraged well. The childminder supports children's language development through positive interaction and listening to children. She introduces new words in everyday activities to extend children's knowledge. Children are encouraged to listen to each other as they talk about what has been happening in their lives. The childminder follows children's interest and extends their knowledge through planned activities, books and discussion, for example, the children's interest in bees. The childminder extended through creative activities and by gaining factual and fictional books from the library for her and the children to look at. Children enjoy a variety of activities and outings throughout the week and develop their physical skills as they play in the garden, at a range of parks and go on bike rides. They learn about the world around them and living things through regular walks in the local area and countryside and having the opportunity to care for the family rabbits. Children are given choices about what they want to do and can help themselves to toys.

The childminder observes children and maintains photographic evidence of children's achievements, which are related to the early learning goals. However, no system has yet been introduced to ensure that children's next steps are being clearly identified and used in leading future planning. Partnerships with other carers are beginning, however, these need developing to ensure individual children's developmental needs are consistently met.

Children are safe and secure in the clean and well maintained home. They learn about how to keep themselves safe both within the home and on outings. For example, the childminder talks with children about stranger danger, ensures children have torches on dark evenings and teaches them how to cross roads safely. They gain independence with their personal hygiene because of the good support they receive. However, hand drying facilities do not minimise the risk of cross infection as all children use the same towel. Drinks are always available

should they become thirsty and the contents of their lunch boxes are stored in the fridge to ensure the food stays fresh. The childminder encourages children to eat healthy options first and has a clear policy about healthy eating. She offers nutritious home cooked evening meals to children and takes into account children's individual dietary needs to ensure that these are met at all times. Clear and consistent boundaries help children understand what is expected of them and consequently they behave well. They learn to be kind to each other and play cooperatively together. Children are happy and enjoy their time with the childminder.

## 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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