

## Inspection report for early years provision

---

<b>Unique reference number</b>	114058
<b>Inspection date</b>	05/03/2009
<b>Inspector</b>	Helen Penticost

<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 1993. She lives with her husband and three children in Horsham, West Sussex. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children under eight at any one time, of whom no more than three may be in the early years age range. She is currently caring for five children in the early years age group, all on a part-time basis. She walks or drives to local schools and pre-schools to take and collect children. The family have pet rabbits. The childminder attends the local toddler group and local childminding group. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and receives support from the local authority. The childminder is registered 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 knows the children well and promotes all aspects of their individual welfare and learning needs. Children's safety and security is promoted at all times and children independently access a good range of stimulating activities, including regular visits within their community. They make good progress in their learning and enjoy their time with the childminder. The high quality of the childminder's provision is supported by an outstanding partnership with parents and effective processes of self-evaluation, which allows continuous improvement. Parents receive information about their children's progress and are encouraged to be involved in their learning.

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

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

- maintain a record of evacuation drills in the fire log book, which includes details of any problems encountered and how they were resolved

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

Children are safeguarded as effective and well thought out procedures are available and all adults are vetted for suitability. Children explore the spacious setting, independently accessing resources with very good levels of supervision at all times. The childminder undertakes regular and effective risk assessments, both within the home and on outings, to ensure that children's safety is paramount. The childminder practises fire evacuation with the children on a regular basis, however, there are no written records in place to evaluate any drill. The childminder has completed Early Years Foundation Stage training, first aid and various other courses, which have secured her good levels of knowledge and understanding in caring and providing for children. The childminder has a clear understanding of the

procedures to be followed should she have a concern about a child in her care. The childminder makes good use of self-evaluation and works to ensure that her level of provision is continuously improving and that children's needs are promoted constantly. There have been improvements since the last inspection and also improved outcomes for children.

The childminder has an outstanding partnership with parents. She has put together a folder with lots of information about herself and her family and other useful and interesting information. This helps create very warm relationship with parents and benefits the children as they settle quickly. A good exchange of information is in place. For example, the childminder provides feedback to parents both verbally and in a daily diary. The childminder collects parents' feedback to ensure they are happy with her level of care. They comment that they appreciate the 'home from home environment' and they feel that the childminder is 'confident, competent and professional'. The childminder ensures that she has a complete understanding of the children that she minds, from information derived from parents and ensures that this process is ongoing at all times. The childminder maintains an inclusive setting where the uniqueness of each child is reflected throughout all aspects of the provision.

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

Children make good progress in their learning and development as the childminder's system of observation, assessment and planning effectively meet children's individual learning. The childminder's good observation skills and the carefully collated portfolios of children's work and experiences allows there to be a good understanding of the progress that children make. Parents are kept informed of children's progress as the childminder takes time to share information with them regularly. The childminder gives parents feedback at the end of the day and they take their children's portfolios home once a month, this helps parents be involved in their children's learning. A flexible routine of both planned and child-initiated activities, results in a wide variety of learning opportunities.

Children are developing good hygiene habits, they are encouraged to wipe their own noses, and start to do this from a young age. Children make good progress in a child-friendly play environment. Their independence is promoted as they decide what they want to do and select resources freely. The storage of play equipment promotes children's independence and children have ample space in which to move, explore and play. The childminder uses her local library 'bag a book' scheme and sits reading stories, ensuring that all children can interact as they take turns at lifting the flaps and feeling the different textures on each page.

The children in the setting show good standards of behaviour and positive relationships to each other and to the childminder. The childminder's behaviour management is very good, she uses praise and encouragement at all times and fully understands that children's self-esteem is an important consideration. She also uses appropriate language when she talks to children of different ages, which greatly aids their understanding about their own behaviour. Children respond well to their learning opportunities and to the childminder as they play together and

share conversations. The childminder is skilled in developing children's confidence to enable them to think about what will happen next or why things happen. For example, when playing with a Duplo train she asks 'Why did the train knock the bridge down?' The child very quickly responds 'Because it was too tall, I have taken one brick off to see if it will fit under the bridge'. The child checks the theory and is delighted when it works and receives praise from 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?	1
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 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.