

## Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique reference number</b>	126309
<b>Inspection date</b>	10/03/2009
<b>Inspector</b>	Beryl Witheridge
<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 two adult children in Maidstone, Kent. The whole 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 at any one time and is currently minding eight children of whom four are in the early years age group. The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and on both the voluntary and compulsory parts of the Childcare Register. The childminder drives to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local parent/toddler and childminding groups. The family has five cats, three fish tanks, two rabbits and a bearded lizard.

The childminder can support children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. She is a member of an approved childminding network and is currently in receipt of funding for nursery education for three and four-year-olds. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

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

The childminder provides an outstanding level of care and education for the children in her care. All the children are treated as individuals and according to their own needs and stages of development. The childminder works in very close partnership with parents and other agencies to ensure that children receive the best possible care. The observations and assessment are well written and clearly linked to the six areas of learning. This enables her to identify the children's next steps and move them forward at their own pace, following their individual interests and capabilities thus maximising their learning potential. The promotion of children's welfare and well-being is given high priority. Overall an inclusive and welcoming service is provided.

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

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

- review the policies and procedures as some of these still refer to the National Standards

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

The childminder provides a bright, warm and welcoming child friendly environment for children. There is a comprehensive range of clear and well written policies and procedures in place, although some of these still have reference to the National Standards. Parents receive their own copies of these policies. The required

documentation including children's information, daily attendances and the accident and medication records are all well maintained and up to date. The childminder is a member of the childminding network and is able to provide nursery education to three and four-year-olds. The childminder reflects on her provision and undertakes relevant training which provides her with the tools she needs to offer parents and children an outstanding service. She looks critically at her provision and is using her self evaluation to identify her strengths and weaknesses.

Children enjoy their care and play in a safe, secure environment. A written risk assessment of the house and garden as well as areas outside the home when on visits is carried out and recorded; any improvements required and the actions taken are also recorded. All necessary steps have been taken to minimise risks for the children. All equipment and resources are clean and in good working order. The emergency evacuation is practised with the children; this is recorded including the children involved and how well it went or if there were any issues arising from the practise. There are clear procedures for outings, correct car seats are used and children understand how to cross the road safely.

All adults who work and live in the house are suitable to do so and hold current Criminal Record Bureau Checks. The childminder has undertaken recent safeguarding training and has an excellent understanding of signs and symptoms of abuse and the procedures to follow should she have any concerns about a child in her care. This is reflected in the safeguarding children policy which is shared with parents.

Children's progress and development is regularly recorded. Observations and assessments are clear and easy to follow; they are supported with much photographic evidence of the activities children are taking part in. The childminder reviews these observations every six weeks so as to monitor their progress, identify their next steps and uses these to positive effect in future planning. Parents are positively included in their children's experiences and future learning and are encouraged to take positive steps to further this. Other agencies who are involved in children's care are able to access and share any relevant records to ensure children are being cared for consistently.

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

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is being used and managed extremely well in providing children with opportunities to extend their learning and development. The childminder has used her training received on the EYFS as well as her ongoing training in all areas of child care to good and positive effect. The use of clear observations and assessments has ensured that the childminder is engaged in moving the children forwards and identifying their strengths and weaknesses. Children enjoy a wide range of age appropriate activities and the childminder is very skilled at extending the children's play. She encourages the children to think for themselves through asking open questions and providing them with many different, interesting and challenging opportunities. Resources provide positive images for children. Parents of children from different ethnic and cultural backgrounds are encouraged to share their beliefs and celebrations with the

childminder and children so they are able to take an interest in each others heritage. Children play happily and cooperatively together, helping each other to do jigsaws, playing with tape measures and using their imaginations in their 'den'. The childminder knows and understands her children well and uses their interests, abilities, home and cultural backgrounds to engage them in purposeful play.

The relationship between the children and the childminder is a very close one; there is real affection and respect between them. The children enjoy the time and experiences they have while in her care and this is clearly reflected in the way they respond to her and each other. They are encouraged to think about each others feelings at all times and this is very noticeable in their behaviour, which is of an extremely high standard. They make get well cards and write letters to another minded child who is unwell so that they will help to make them feel better. Children benefit from lots of praise and encouragement which encourages them to look for attention in positive ways. Their manners are exemplary. The childminder is an excellent role model for the children.

Children receive snacks that are healthy such as a choice of fruit; apples, bananas, pears. Drinks are available at all times. Parents are provided with a sample menu although she is not currently providing cooked meals for the children. The childminder shares books and talks to children about different types of food and encourages children to develop healthy eating habits. The childminder is very aware of the dietary requirements of the children in her care. Children are learning about the importance of personal hygiene routines. Children with contagious diseases do not attend thus preventing the spread of infectious ailments. Children are cared for in a very well-organised and safe environment in which their welfare is fully considered and promoted. Outdoor play and regular daily walks and trips to local parks and places of interest promote their physical development and their interest in the local environment and 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

<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

<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**

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.