

## Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique reference number</b>	139394
<b>Inspection date</b>	07/04/2009
<b>Inspector</b>	Carol Johnstone
<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 1989. She lives with her husband in a village, close to Sherborne, Dorset. The childminder's husband also acts as her assistant. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding, with toilet and rest facilities provided on the first floor. There is an enclosed garden area for outdoor play. The family have two ponies and a tortoise. The childminder is registered to care for up to four children at any one time and there are currently seven children on roll, all of whom are in the early years age group. The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

## Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of provision is inadequate. Children are cared for in a clean environment and they are settled with the childminder. However, the childminder has insufficient knowledge of the Early Years Foundation Stage. Processes which would help the childminder evaluate her own practice and identify areas for improvement are not yet in place. Regular risk assessments of the environment are not being carried out.

Overall, the early years provision requires significant improvement. The registered person is given a Notice to Improve that sets out actions to be carried out.

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

To comply with the requirements of the EYFS the registered person must take the following action by the specified date:

- make available to parents a written statement that provides details of the procedure to be followed if they have a complaint (Safeguarding and promoting children's welfare) 07/04/2009
- conduct risk assessments of the home, outdoor play area and any outings and review them regularly (Suitable premises, environment and equipment) 07/04/2009
- take all reasonable steps to ensure that hazards to children both indoors and outdoors are kept to a minimum (Suitable premises, environment and equipment) 07/04/2009
- develop knowledge and understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage in order to provide experiences which are appropriate to each child's stage of development as they progress towards the early learning goals (Organisation) 21/04/2009

To improve the early years provision the registered person should:

- develop knowledge and understanding of equal opportunities and inclusion in order to promote and value diversity and difference
- carry out regular evacuation drills and record when they are done
- develop a process to evaluate all aspects of practice in order to identify areas for improvement
- develop partnerships with other providers sharing the care of the children in order to ensure that the Early Years Foundation Stage is delivered consistently

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

The childminder has some basic policies in place, for example safeguarding children. However, there is no complaints procedure for parents which is a requirement. Although the childminder does think about safety issues when planning her daily routines, there are no records of risk assessments being carried out to identify potential hazards. For example, the heater in the hall is extremely hot to the touch which could present a burning hazard for young children. This has not been identified which is a requirement. The fire drill is not practised frequently with the children to ensure that they are familiar with the procedures to follow in an emergency situation. Recommendations made at the last inspection have not been fully implemented which has prevented continuous improvement of the provision. The childminder has not put into place any processes which would help her evaluate her practice and identify areas for improvement.

The childminder has friendly links with parents. There are daily discussions upon arrival and collection of the children and a sharing of children's achievements during activities that day. Work sheets are shown to parents and any paintings done by the children are sent home to be displayed. Although some children also attend local pre schools for part of the week, links are not yet in place to ensure that information about children's development is being shared and continuity of learning maintained.

A recommendation was made at the last inspection for the childminder to increase her knowledge of equal opportunities. This recommendation has not been fully met and the childminder does not yet have sufficient knowledge of diversity and disability. Consequently, children's awareness of these areas is not being effectively promoted by the childminder.

The childminder has an adequate knowledge of the types and signs of child abuse and she knows who to contact in the event of a concern arising. Consequently, she would be able to quickly obtain support for a child at risk.

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

Children are settled and comfortable with the childminder and her assistant. They are cared for in a clean and homely environment. Children are able to choose from a wide assortment of toys which are arranged in a way to make them easily seen and accessible. Children enjoy a range of activities including painting, puzzles,

construction, drawing, small world, shape sorters and books. The childminder supports children's learning with caring interaction and guidance. However, the childminder does not have sufficient knowledge of the Early Years Foundation Stage which is now a requirement. Consequently, although children are learning about colours, numbers and letters, their progress is not being planned and tracked through the early learning goals.

Children are encouraged to learn about their personal health and hygiene. They wash their hands before meals and after outside play using separate towels to avoid the risk of cross contamination. Shoes are not worn in the house to protect crawling babies from outside germs. Sick children are excluded from the provision in order for other children to be protected. The childminder makes sure that she records any health issues or allergies on the initial contracts so that no children will be put at risk from being given food which may be harmful to them. The childminder records medication and accidents correctly, making sure that parents sign the entries when they arrive. Children have varied opportunities for physical play each day both in the enclosed garden and the nearby field. There are also regular walks in the local vicinity. The childminder has a range of outdoor equipment for children to play with such as bikes, tractors, hoops, wheelbarrows and balls. There is also a sand pit and playhouse for imaginative activities.

Children are given a healthy cooked lunch each day to promote their well-being. The childminder uses fresh vegetables and prepares a range of dishes such as cottage pie, pasta, fish and chicken. Fresh fruit is also given to the children for snacks. This helps them learn about healthy eating and what food is good for them.

Children are encouraged to learn good manners and how to have respect for each other, adults and the resources. Children behave well and are given praise freely by the childminder which helps to build their self esteem. They learn about their personal safety through daily discussion and are reminded of safety rules such as not climbing on furniture, not putting pens into their mouth and being careful of leaving small toys around when younger children are present. When using outdoor play equipment, children learn to go one at a time on the slide and to avoid walking past swings when they are in use. The childminder also talks to the children about how to avoid risks from the road.

## 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>	4
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	4
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	4

### Leadership and management

<b>How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?</b>	4
How effective is the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement?	4
How well does the setting work in partnership with parents and others?	3
How well are children safeguarded?	3

### Quality and standards

<b>How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?</b>	4
<b>How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?</b>	3
How well are children helped to stay safe?	3
How well are children helped to be healthy?	3
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	4
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	3
How well are children helped develop skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being?	3

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:

Not Met (with actions)

The provider confirms that the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register are:

Not Met (with actions)

The registered provider does not meet the requirements of the compulsory and or voluntary part/s of the Childcare Register.

To comply with the requirements of the compulsory part of the Childcare Register, the registered person must take the following action/s by the specified date:

- make available to parents a written statement that provides details of the procedure to be followed if they have a complaint (also applies to the voluntary part of the Childcare Register)

07/04/2009

To comply with the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register, the registered person must take the following action/s by the specified date:

- complete a written risk assessment at least each year (also applies to the compulsory part of the Childcare Register)

07/04/2009

## **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.