

## Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique reference number</b>	156716
<b>Inspection date</b>	06/05/2009
<b>Inspector</b>	Janette Mary White
<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).

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 2001. She lives with her husband in Sittingbourne, 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 premises are not suitable for wheelchair uses. The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and on both the voluntary and compulsory parts of the Childcare Register.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of 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 currently caring for three children in this age group. She also offers care to children aged over five years to 11 years. The childminder walks or drives to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local parent and toddler group. The family has a rabbit, a budgie and an African snail.

## Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is satisfactory. Children have opportunities to play with a range of resources, including positive images of the world around them. The childminder provides a homely environment, although Ofsted are not always notified of changes affecting the premises. The childminder offers appropriate activities and resources. However, the system for identifying each child's next step, to ensure their progress in the Early Years Foundation Stage, is not yet established. Most of the policies and procedures are readily available for parents. The childminder works in partnership with other agencies and parents. She values their contributions and keeps them informed of the daily activities. Children are settled and play within a safe environment where risks within the home are highlighted and acted upon, although individual hygiene practices are not observed for each child. The childminder is aware of areas for her potential future improvement and her strengths.

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

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

- use observations and assessments to identify the learning priorities for children including their next stage of development.
- develop further knowledge and understanding of safeguarding child protection procedures and ensure this meets the Safeguarding Children Board requirements.
- ensure good hygiene practices are in place regarding hand washing.

To fully meet the specific requirements of the EYFS, the registered person must:

- ensure Ofsted are notified of any change to the premises on which childcare is provided that may

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affect the space available to children. (Suitable premises, environment and equipment)

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

The childminder has some understanding of safeguarding children, such as using stair gates and locks on cupboards which store hazards. In addition, she has conducted and recorded risk assessments. Through discussion, the childminder talks about signs and symptoms of abuse and she knows it is her responsibility to protect the welfare of the child. However, she is less familiar with the processes and this narrows her knowledge of the relevant agencies. The childminder has not notified Ofsted of changes to the premises that may affect the space available to children, such as building a conservatory extension. Children's records have details of their appropriate care needs, such as their home language and religion. The childminder has obtained all the required written permissions and works closely with parents and others. She continues to develop her understanding of how to use observations and assessments and updates her child care knowledge by attending courses, such as first aid. Through discussion she describes her continuous improvement and is clear on her strengths or areas where she can improve to develop her future practice.

The childminder demonstrates how she helps children develop an understanding of acceptable behaviour. For example, she talks to children about sharing and being kind to each other. Therefore, children's understanding of appropriate behaviour is positively encouraged. They describe how they cross roads safely when out walking, although the younger children have not regularly practiced the emergency escape plan. As a result, some children are not sufficiently familiar with what to do during a fire drill. The childminder has an up-to-date first aid certificate this ensures appropriate first aid treatment is given to the children. The first aid box is easily accessible and basic supplies are taken on car journeys. Although, not always taken when out walking. There is a system to record medication and any accidents are clearly noted which are acknowledged by the parent. The childminder ensures sick children do not attend, reducing the risk of cross infection.

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

The childminder has discussed with parents some aspects of the child's development and their basic routine. She is beginning to note observations in order to consider the child's progress, although this system is not yet embedded. As a result, their next stage of development is not clearly identified. The childminder has devised simple house rules which helps children learn about their boundaries. Children enjoy a sufficient range of activities including positive images of the world around us. For example, different festivals are discussed and celebrated. They have appropriate opportunities to be creative and choose from the range of resources which are easily accessible. Although, the storage boxes are not labelled to support younger children's self help skills and independence.

Activities for children are adapted to each child's need as they learn at their own pace. The childminder supports them as they achieve to their own satisfaction, such as counting the number of balls they throw into the ball pond.

Children follow basic hygiene practices, such as washing their hands after toileting. However, there is a risk of cross-infection as the children share the same towel. Children are offered a variety of healthy foods and snacks. They discuss healthy options, such as fruit or ingredients which are less healthy, such as sugar. As a result, children's understanding of the importance of eating a balanced diet is promoted. The childminder describes how she provides a broad range of opportunities for children to take part in quieter activities or to be active. For example, they are reminded to choose the straight edges as they complete the new jigsaw puzzles. Some children have a written daily diary and all parents are kept informed of the activities through verbal discussion and the child's 'learning journey', which is shared with other agencies.

## 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>	3
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	3
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	3

### Leadership and management

<b>How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?</b>	3
How effective is the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement?	3
How well does the setting work in partnership with parents and others?	2
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>	3
<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?	3
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?	3

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## 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:

- ensure the policy and procedure in relation to safeguarding child protection is maintained in a written format. (Documentation). (also applies to voluntary part of the Childcare Register)

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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:

- take action as specified in the compulsory section of the report in relation to the safeguarding child protection policy

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