

## Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique reference number</b>	151040
<b>Inspection date</b>	18/08/2009
<b>Inspector</b>	Anne Mitchell
<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 has been registered since 2000. She lives with her husband and five children in Ringwood. The ground floor of the childminder's home is mainly used for childminding with overnight facilities on the first floor. There is access to a fully enclosed outdoor play area, with steps to some areas of the garden. The family have two pet dogs.

The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register, as well as the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. A maximum of five children may attend at any one time, of whom three may be in the early years age group. The childminder is registered to provide overnight care. There are currently nine children on roll, of whom six are in the early years age group. The childminder also cares for children over eight years of age.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association as well as being a network childminder.

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

Overall, the quality of the provision is good. Children's individual needs are effectively met because the childminder knows each child well. There are newly developed systems in place to monitor and evaluate the childminder's day to day practice. Children are making good progress towards the early learning goals, given their starting points, and are happy and confident in this caring environment.

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

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

- continue to monitor and assess the provision to ensure all areas of learning are covered equally

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

Children are effectively protected from harm and neglect. The childminder has completed some safeguarding training and is confident in her knowledge and understanding of how to protect children. She is able to recognise signs and symptoms of possible abuse and is aware of the correct procedures to follow in the event of concerns being noted. A written policy is in place and is shared with all parents from the outset. Effective and regular risk assessments ensure children are safe and secure in the childminder's care. All required documentation is in place to support children's health and safety. The childminder has developed a comprehensive range of policies and procedures that reflect her practice, and these are shared with all parents.

Systems to monitor and assess the provision are effective, although in the early stages, so identified improvements have not yet been fully implemented. The childminder has recently become a network childminder and her practise is monitored through regular visits from the network coordinator. Parents and children are involved in the assessment process through discussion and the use of questionnaires. A recently completed self-evaluation identifies areas for development.

The childminder has a strong partnership with parents and carers. At initial visits parents and children are shown a photograph album showing activities that children enjoy. Recently developed 'All about me' forms record children's interests, as well as their likes and dislikes. Parents are provided with daily diaries for babies and toddlers to ensure they are well informed of their children's daily routines and progress. Parents write that their children 'benefit immensely in their development through their time with the childminder'. An annual review with parents provides opportunities for them to be involved in the assessment process.

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

Children are happy, settled and very confident. A broad range of resources are available for children to choose to ensure their all round development is promoted, and they enjoy their time in the childminder's care. The childminder is skilled at participating in children's play, instigating activities or allowing children to play independently, depending on their preferences.

The childminder meets the needs of individual children. When the youngest child has finished her collage, the childminder provides imaginative play for her, allowing the others to continue with their craft. The high level of interaction throughout the day promotes children's confidence and self-esteem. Children talk about recent holidays, the pets they look after and birthday parties they have enjoyed. The childminder is genuinely interested in what children have to say, listening carefully and responding with enthusiasm.

The childminder's own children relate well to minded children and they all play well together. Children use their imaginations to play 'schools', as they take the register, draw pictures and make marks. They are encouraged to help, and they take plates and cups into the garden for snack, counting how many cups and plates are needed. Children become involved in a well planned and well resourced craft activity and use glue, paper, card, sand, tissue, shells and pipe cleaners to make seaside collages. Children share well and enjoy working together to produce the finished article.

The childminder plans lots of outings and good opportunities for outdoor play, which enhances children's learning experiences. They have planted and harvested peas, carrots and onions this year and help to make vegetable soup for tea, promoting their understanding of healthy lifestyles. They visit the farm looking at the chickens and pigs, and such visits provide children with opportunities to learn about their own health and safety. All children are included in all activities and the childminder is skilled at ensuring outings meet the needs of all children in her care.

The quality of planning for individuals, observation and assessment is good. Each child has their own development folder. Their progress is well documented, and illustrated with photos to show activities children have enjoyed and areas of learning covered. Parents views are sought and included in the records, as are the views from other childcare providers the children may attend.

Children's health and safety is effectively promoted. The childminder ensures children are safe in the house and on outings. Children learn about keeping safe on the farm, near the road and at the beach through gentle reinforcement and are clearly aware of the boundaries set. Children look out for each other, and tell a younger child, 'Be careful on the slide!' They enjoy healthy snacks of fruit bread, pumpkin seeds, fresh peach and bananas, with water to drink. Children spontaneously wash their hands and maintain good hygiene habits. They are able to explain why they must wash their hands after holding and stroking the pet hamster.

Children's behaviour is very good. They maintain warm and close relationships with the childminder, her children and with each other. The childminder and her children are very good role models and talk to one another, and the children with respect. The childminder uses lots of praise and encouragement, and manages any minor conflicts promptly and in a positive way, to ensure children are happy.

## 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

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## **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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