

## Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique reference number</b>	114222
<b>Inspection date</b>	03/12/2009
<b>Inspector</b>	Christine McInally
<b>Type of setting</b>	Childminder

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## 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.

Please see our website for more information about each childcare provider. We publish inspection reports, conditions of registration and details of complaints we receive where we or the provider take action to meet the requirements of registration.

## **Description of the childminding**

The childminder registered in 1984. She lives with her husband and grown up children in a detached house in Crawley. The ground floor of the property is used for minding. There is a garden available for outside play. There are family pets.

The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. She is registered to care for a maximum of six children under eight years, of these three may be in the early years age range. She also cares for children aged eight years. She is currently caring for four children, on a part-time basis, one is in the early years age range.

## **The overall effectiveness of the early years provision**

Overall the quality of the provision is satisfactory.

The childminder provides a warm, caring and welcoming environment for children and their families. She is committed to meeting their individual needs through working closely with parents and including children in all activities and events. The childminder provides a good range of resources and activities that interest the children and meet their individual needs. She has a basic understanding of the learning and development requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and plans a wide range of activities covering all areas of learning. However, procedures for observation and assessment are not fully in place. The childminder has an understanding of her areas for development, however, she has not fully implemented procedures to effectively monitor and evaluate her provision.

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

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

- develop observation and assessment records to clearly identify each child's starting points to effectively monitor their progress and plan for their next steps in learning
- introduce a self-evaluation system to monitor the provision and identify key strengths and areas for improvement
- ensure the fire blanket is installed in line with the manufacturer's recommendations

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

Children are safeguarded as the childminder has a clear understanding of child protection policies and procedures. Parents are made aware of her child protection policy so that they know what action she will take if she has any concerns. Children are cared for in a welcoming, healthy and safe environment. The childminder conducts risk assessments, which are recorded and regularly reviewed.

The childminder has an understanding of all safety-related issues and has in place all the relevant policies and procedures to ensure children's safety. However, the fire blanket is not in a fixed position making it ineffective.

The childminder works well in partnership with parents and confidentiality is maintained. They receive good written information about the provision including policy and procedure documents. While children's ability and involvement in different activities is observed it is not yet recorded or used to fully plan for their next steps in learning. Parents are encouraged to share what they know about their child's development and are kept informed of their child's achievements and progress. Formal links with other providers are yet to be fully established but she has built up relationships both with the settings and the staff helping to support children's development.

The good range of play equipment is well maintained, suitable for the ages of all the children attending and offers interesting variety. Space is well used and some child friendly storage is provided. This allows children to self-select resources and make choices about their play and helps promote their decision making and independence skills. The childminder has a sound understanding of all equal opportunities issues and has a positive attitude towards diversity. This helps children develop an awareness of their own and other cultures. The childminder works to provide an enabling and inclusive environment and she makes parents and their children feel welcome. She ensures that all activities are accessible to all the children and adapts activities to meet children's individual needs. The childminder has an understanding of areas for improvement within her provision and has appropriately addressed all recommendations raised at the previous inspection. However, she has yet to put in place procedures to effectively monitor and evaluate impacting on her capacity to improve what is offered to the children.

## **The quality and standards of the early years provision and outcomes for children**

Children are supported and encouraged throughout their time in the childminder's care. The childminder shares close relationships with the children and they clearly feel safe and secure in the positive relationship. There is a balance of child-initiated and adult-led activities, which help children to be active learners. The childminder has a basic understanding of the learning and development requirements of the EYFS. She has yet to introduce systems to record basic observations of the children, however, the childminder does know the children well and plans a wide variety of activities across all areas of learning. Consequently, children are making suitable progress in their learning and development. Children have many opportunities to develop their communication skills and are confident in this area, such as, chatting on the 'mobile' during imaginative play. They enjoy sharing books together and are learning that text carries meaning. Craft activities, drawing and painting encourage children's creativity as well as pre-writing skills. The childminder automatically introduces vocabulary, numbers and colours as she chats to the children. This reinforces children's learning in a relaxed way. The children enjoy regular opportunities to learn about their local community as they go to the shops or to the park to feed the ducks. They enjoy easy access to the

garden and develop their physical skills as they play on the trampoline.

The childminder's home is clean, safe and welcoming for children, providing ample space to play. The risk of infection is minimized through the effective procedures in place, for example, providing the children with individual towels to use after they have washed their hands. Children learn about the dangers of the road when out and about with the childminder. Meal and snack times are sociable and while parents currently provide packed lunches for the children, the childminder demonstrates a good understanding of healthy eating practices. The childminder's home offers a warm child friendly environment which is effectively organised to provide a child-centred space. Children use a good range of safe and developmentally appropriate resources that are easily accessible to encourage their independence. Children behave well, they are enthusiastic and well motivated; they benefit from the consistent praise and encouragement offered by the childminder. They gain confidence as the childminder acknowledges them as important individuals.

## 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*

### The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

<b>How well does the setting meet the needs of the children in the Early Years Foundation Stage?</b>	3
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement	3

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

<b>How effectively is the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?</b>	3
The effectiveness of leadership and management in embedding ambition and driving improvement	3
The effectiveness with which the setting deploys resources	2
The effectiveness with which the setting promotes equality and diversity	3
The effectiveness of safeguarding	2
The effectiveness of the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement	3
The effectiveness of partnerships	3
The effectiveness of the setting's engagement with parents and carers	2

### The quality of the provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage

The quality of the provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage	3
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### Outcomes for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage

<b>Outcomes for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage</b>	3
The extent to which children achieve and enjoy their learning	3
The extent to which children feel safe	2
The extent to which children adopt healthy lifestyles	2
The extent to which children make a positive contribution	3
The extent to which children develop skills for the future	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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