

## Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique reference number</b>	257358
<b>Inspection date</b>	15/04/2010
<b>Inspector</b>	Tracey Marie Boland
<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 was registered in 2001. She lives with her husband and child aged 11 in a residential area in West Hunsbury, Northampton. There are shops and schools within easy walking distance. The whole of the ground floor are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. Children are also taken on local outings to places of interest. The family have two dogs, a cat and fish.

There are five children currently on roll. The childminder is registered to care for six children at any one time. There is currently one child attending who are within the Early Years Foundation Stage, all of whom attend on a part-time basis. The childminder also offers care to children aged over five years to 14 years. This provision is registered by Ofsted on the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register.

The childminder currently supports a child who speaks English as an additional language. There is direct access to the setting. She is a member of the National Childminding Association and is able to take and collect children from local schools.

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

Overall the quality of the provision is good.

The childminder promotes inclusive practice recognising and valuing the uniqueness of each child and through consistent communication with parents she is able to meet each child's individual needs effectively. Children are happy and settled and the childminder ensures they access a wide variety of experiences to help them make progress in their learning and development. Planning is flexible and linked to information from observations and the views of the children are sought and included. The childminder deploys her resources well so that children can make independent choices and become active learners. Systems are in place to evaluate the service she provides although processes for obtaining the views of parents and children are in their infancy.

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

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

- develop a culture of reflective practice, self-evaluation and informed discussion with parents to identify the setting's strengths and priorities for development that will improve the quality of provision for all children.

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

The childminder is very well-organised and has formed excellent relationships with the children she cares for. Clear documentation and good record keeping promotes the safety and welfare of the children and supports the care offered. Robust safeguarding policies and procedures are in place to ensure that children are fully protected and parents are aware of her role and responsibility to protecting children in her care from abuse and neglect. Clear risk assessments are in place, both indoors and outdoors and children are supervised directly. Children play within a secure home and children are unable to leave unattended. Checks within the home further improve children's safety and any unsuitable items or resources are discarded.

The childminder is sensitive to children's individual personalities and a gradual introduction to her home ensures they are happy and feel secure within the home environment and with family members. Strong relationships with parents enables good communication and enables the childminder to gather clear information from them so that she knows about children's individual needs, therefore, meet them effectively. Parents receive verbal feedback on a daily basis so that they know about their child's day and written information is provided in agreement with parents. Excellent written policies and procedures are shared with parents which clearly reflect the ethos of care.

The childminder organises space and play resources effectively to meet children's needs and they benefit from plenty of fresh air through the wide variety of outdoor activities they are involved in. She has a good understanding of children's individual abilities and this enables her to provide play experiences and activities to support each child's developing skills. The childminder has a good knowledge and understanding of child development and continually develops her skills and knowledge through the training courses she attends. She identifies her own strengths and areas for development through her own self-evaluation, however, the views of parents and children are not yet included. The childminder has developed a strong partnership with other providers of the Early Years Foundation Stage which ensures that continuity of care and education are maintained for children.

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

The childminder has a good understanding of children's individual abilities and interests. Children enjoy their activities with the childminder and they take part in a range of play opportunities that help them to learn and develop. Planning is in place and is flexible so that it can be adapted to focus on children's interests and takes account of their own ideas and suggestions. The childminder observes children in their play and photographs reflect the enjoyment they have whilst completing the activities. This demonstrates that they are making good progress across the areas of learning and development.

Children's independence and confidence is promoted as the childminder organises toys and resources to allow them to access the freely and encourage them to make informed decisions and choices. The children enjoy the relaxed environment, which is safe and children are able to move confidently within the areas available to them. Their well-being is enhanced through the strong relationship they have formed with the childminder and their peers and they enjoy the opportunities they have to be creative. Children's work is displayed within their own files and they are able to take home their creations if they wish.

Children are developing their early literacy and communication skills because the childminder makes sure they have lots of opportunities to promote these skills. They choose from a wide variety of books and their literacy skills are encouraged on the computer also. They learn mathematical concepts through cooking activities where they are able to measure out ingredients and their counting skills are enhanced when counting out the different seeds when planting in the garden. Children are keenly interested in finding out about things that interest them. Younger children confidently operate computerised activities and they all enjoy using the electronic games console with a variety of games where they are able to develop their coordination and understanding of rhythm.

The childminder provides a safe, comfortable environment for children to help meet their needs. They enjoy many opportunities to enjoy the outdoor environment whilst on visits in the local community, to the local park and library and to places of interest such as Salcey Forest. The childminder gathers clear information from parents about children's dietary requirements which are respected and accommodated. The childminder is fully aware of her responsibilities to safeguard children and she helps children to understand how to keep safe, both in the home and on outings. For example, children learn about road safety when they are out and the importance of not talking to strangers.

## 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>	2
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement	2

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

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

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

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### Outcomes for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage

<b>Outcomes for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage</b>	2
The extent to which children achieve and enjoy their learning	2
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	2
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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