

## Inspection report for early years provision

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**Unique reference number** 112412  
**Inspection date** 13/04/2010  
**Inspector** Dinah Round

**Type of setting** Childminder

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Royal Exchange Buildings  
St Ann's Square  
Manchester  
M2 7LA

T: 0300 123 1231  
Textphone: 0161 618 8524  
E: [enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk)  
W: [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)

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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 to care for children in 2000. She lives with her husband in a residential area of Ashurst, in Hampshire. Local shops, parks, schools and pre-schools are within walking distance of the home. The ground floor of the property is predominantly used for childminding with an upstairs bedroom used for sleeping if required. The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and the voluntary and compulsory parts of the Childcare Register. She is registered to care for a maximum of six children under eight years, of which three may be in the early years age group at any one time. The childminder currently cares for 12 children on a part-time basis, of these three are in the early years age group. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

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

Overall the quality of the provision is good.

Children are happy, settled and content in the welcoming environment provided. The childminder knows each child well and takes positive steps to ensure their individual needs are met and that all can take part in the stimulating play experiences provided. Children benefit from the positive relationships developed with parents which helps the childminder to ensure their welfare is promoted well. The childminder attends training to update her knowledge and continues to reflect on her practice to help improve outcomes for children.

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

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

- extend existing risk assessment systems to ensure each specific outing is included, and make sure all risks in the garage are made inaccessible to children
- increase confidence in using the Early Years Foundation Stage, and continue to develop observation and assessment systems linking with parents to support children in moving on to the next step in their learning

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

The childminder is well organised with most aspects of documentation in place to support children's health and welfare. She has a clear understanding of her responsibilities to protect children and knows the procedures to follow to ensure children are safeguarded. Some risk assessments have been completed to help identify and minimise risks, although specific outings are not included. Safety measures are put in place so that children can move around freely and safely in their play, although, children access the outdoors via the garage and not all potential risks have been removed. The childminder encourages children in positive

routines to promote their own health which helps to reduce the spread of infection.

The childminder considers the individual needs of the children to ensure these are valued and respected. They learn about each others differences and similarities through discussion, and access to resources that reflect diversity. Children benefit from good use of the outdoor environment which increases available play space and maximises children's independence and enjoyment. They access a broad range of well maintained, good quality play equipment and resources, which are effectively positioned to allow children to make choices about their play. This keeps them interested and involved throughout the day. The childminder attends training to develop her childcare practice, such as observation and assessment in the Early Years Foundation Stage. Systems for the ongoing monitoring of the provision are in place which include seeking the views of parents and children on how the childminding practice can be improved.

The childminder's policy statements are shared with parents to keep them well informed of her practice and procedures. Effective partnerships are developed with parents which means that children are settled and secure during their time in her care. Information about a child's care and achievements is generally exchanged through informal discussion, as systems to share details of children's progress through their development folders are not yet established. The childminder has some informal systems in place to liaise with other early years settings that children attend, which helps to promote continuity of care. Parents are happy with the care provided by the childminder, commenting she provides consistent boundaries and teaches children to show respect and kindness to others.

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

Children are happy, settled and secure in the warm, caring and child-orientated environment provided. The childminder has a genuine love of working with children and is attentive to their individual needs, balancing her attention well so all children feel included. Children benefit from the childminder's knowledge of child development which she uses to support their learning and development. However, she is still developing her confidence in using the Early Years Foundation Stage framework to record children's progress and achievements and systems are still in the early stages. Children cooperate well and have positive relationships with each other as they share, take turns and negotiate during their play. The older children show a good awareness and consideration towards the needs of younger children. Children self-register as they arrive at the childminders which helps to promote a sense of belonging.

Children's independence is fostered well, resources are easily accessible and children confidently make choices in their play, such as happily creating meals for each other in the playhouse outside. The childminder gets involved in children's play extending activities by asking questions to introduce counting, matching and sorting activities. Children learn about sizes and match colours in their play, and have fun as they count the steps during a game of 'What Time is it Mr Wolf'. Children have regular opportunities to explore creative materials, such as paint,

sand, gloop, collage and baking activities. They are introduced to sounds and rhythm through the 'Boogie Mites' music and have made their own instruments to play along to the music. Children enjoy regular outings to places of interest, such as a local dairy farm, the childminder considers the needs of both older and younger children when organising trips so everyone can all take part.

Children learn about keeping themselves safe as the childminder talks to them about hazards, teaches them road safety, and discusses her emergency evacuation procedures though these haven't been practised recently. Children's health and well-being is effectively promoted. They enjoy healthy snacks of fresh fruit and are able to access their drinks containers at all times to prevent them from becoming thirsty. Children follow good hygiene procedures, the childminder talks about why they have to wash their hands which helps them learn about keeping healthy. Good procedures are in place when visiting the local farms to ensure risks of the spread of infection are minimised.

## 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	3
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

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