

Inspection report for early years provision

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| Unique reference number | 102230 |
| Inspection date | 16/06/2010 |
| Inspector | Lynne Stephanie Bowden |
| Type of setting | 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 1994. She lives with her husband, one senior school aged child and one adult child, in Penryn, Cornwall. All areas of the property are used for childminding, with the bathroom and bedrooms on the first floor. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The family has a pet cat. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time, four being in the early years age range. She currently minds five children in this age range, some of whom attend other Early Years Foundation Stage providers. The childminder is registered by Ofsted on the Early Years Register and both the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. The childminder supports children with English as an additional language. She drives to local schools and pre-schools to take and collect children. She attends the local library, parks and the childminder network group. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association. She is also a member of an approved childminding network.

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is good.

Children are confident and relaxed in the comfortable and secure environment, where the childminder has made her home safe. They have very good relationships with her. She encourages children to learn through play, using her knowledge of individual children's preferences to provide activities that interest them. She also makes effective use of local amenities. Parents are informed about their children's activities and about her policies and practices. The childminder is aware of her strengths and areas for development.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- refine the observation records to relate to levels of development and encourage parental involvement in planning for their children's next steps
- ensure that documentation is kept up to date.

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

Children are kept safe from harm, as the childminder has a secure knowledge of safeguarding children issues and procedures. She makes sure that children are closely supervised and carries out comprehensive risk assessments to ensure their environment is safe. The childminder follows effective hygiene procedures, ensuring children clean their hands. She provides individual hand towels to minimise the risk of cross infection. Children are well protected in the event of having an accident, as the childminder is qualified in first aid.

All required documentation is available and ensures that parents are knowledgeable about the provision. However, some contact details need updating and children's attendance is not always completed promptly. The childminder quickly informs parents of any concerns she notes about their children's health, enabling parents to promptly seek professional advice and support. She keeps parents well informed about their children's activities and routines through discussion and daily diaries. These diaries are also used to share information with other providers of the Early Years Foundation Stage. However, they do not include sufficient information about children's progress in relation to the early learning goals to encourage parental involvement in planning for their children's next steps. The childminder uses her knowledge of the children and her recorded observations of them to identify their next steps and inform her planning. Consequently, she plans and provides activities that interest children and promote their progress.

The childminder makes good use of outdoor play areas, and her allotment, to encourage children's physical development and increase their awareness of the natural environment and where food comes from. Children play in a comfortable home environment, where they have easy access to a wide range of resources. These include positive images of people of different lifestyles, ethnic backgrounds and with physical disabilities so children become aware of difference and diversity. The childminder is aware of her strengths and areas for development. She has carried out improvements since her previous inspection, including fulfilling the recommendation made at that time. Consequently, her home is more secure and children are able to sleep comfortably in a travel cot. The childminder has attended training to improve her knowledge and she keeps up to date with current practice through her regular attendance at a childminding support group.

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

Children are secure and comfortable in the childminder's home. They enjoy their play and get on very well with one another. Children are curious to explore and take part in the new experiences provided. They thoroughly enjoy exploring and playing with, for example, a selection of scarves. They laugh and giggle in delight at having them draped over their heads and enjoy dancing around experiencing the effect of movement on the material. Children become aware of simple mathematical concepts such as shape, size, number and balance as they complete puzzles and play on the see-saw. Access to a range of books enables the children to independently select books and read stories to each other. They confidently use the pictures as prompts and demonstrate their familiarity with the stories. The childminder supports children's different communication styles, such as signing, and celebrates children's bilingual skills by occasionally practising her Spanish with them. Children enjoy opportunities to develop their creative skills and imaginations by dressing up, dancing and singing to music and using the musical instruments available.

Children benefit from good opportunities to enjoy fresh air and exercise, such as regular outdoor play and trips to the parks and beaches. There, they develop confidence and learn to play cooperatively taking turns to use equipment. Children

enjoy practising and developing their ball skills with support from the childminder, who skilfully encourages them with clear instructions and praise. Children are polite and well behaved and respond to the childminder's calm manner. Their enthusiasm to participate in experiences and activities, plus their cooperation and good behaviour equips children well with skills for their future well-being.

Children learn to protect themselves from the sun, happily waiting for the childminder to apply sun cream to them, before going out to play. Children enjoy their nutritious snacks of yoghurt covered raisins and fresh fruit and are supported in their decisions to eat sensibly, stopping when they feel full. All children are protected from the risk of fire by their participation in regular fire drills. Fire safety messages are consolidated when they enjoy visits to the local fire station.

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

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| How well does the setting meet the needs of the children in the Early Years Foundation Stage? | 2 |
| The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement | 2 |

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

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| How effectively is the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed? | 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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| The quality of the provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage | 2 |
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Outcomes for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage

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| Outcomes for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage | 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

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| 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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