

Inspection report for early years provision

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Inspection date	31/01/2011
Inspector	Sara Frost
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 1999. She lives with two of her three children aged 14 and 17 years. Her eldest child is currently away studying at university. The family live on a residential estate in Bodmin, within walking distance of local shops, schools preschools, parks and library. The childminder collects children from the local school and regularly attends various groups in the Bodmin area. Children have access to the lounge and dining room on the ground floor, with bathroom and rest areas available on the first floor. There is a fully enclosed garden for children to play outside. The family have a pet dog.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children under eight at any one time, no more than three of which may be in the early years age range. She is currently minding four children in this age group on a part time basis. The childminder also offers care to children aged over five years to 12 years. She is registered by Ofsted on the Early Years Register and both the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. The childminder holds a level three qualification in childcare and is a member of the National Childminding Association and the local Bodmin Childminding Group

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is good.

Children are happy, content and very secure in the childminder's care. The positive relationship with parents ensures children's individual needs are known from the onset. The on-going partnership with parents and other early years providers ensures each child is fully supported in their developmental needs. Most of the required documentation is in place. The childminder has completed the recommendations raised at her previous inspection and has identified aspects she wishes to develop therefore she shows commitment and the capacity to improve the childminding service she provides.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- update the record of risk assessment to include all assessments of risks for outings and trips
- develop learning journals and share with parents to further support their child's development
- develop knowledge and understanding of child protection in order to remain up to date with current guidelines

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

Children are safeguarded as all the adults have completed the relevant checks and children are not left alone with any unvetted visitors to the childminder's home or when out at other settings. The childminder is aware of the process to follow should she have any concerns about a child in her care, however recognises the need to update her knowledge to ensure she is fully aware of the current guidelines. Children regularly take part in fire evacuation processes at the childminder's home. The process is then evaluated by the childminder to identify smoother and more effective evacuations. Appropriate risk assessments are in place to ensure children are kept safe within the childminder's home; such as areas identified following the move to new premises. These areas have recently been reviewed to ensure her home remains a safe place for all. Children are regularly taken on outings and unlike the childminder's home risk assessment these are not in written format. However, the childminder confidently talks through areas of risk relating to each outing or trip.

The range of resources and playthings provided are suitable and easily accessible to children providing them with choices in their play. The recommendations raised at the childminder's previous inspection have been completed. The childminder purchased additional resources, such as small world play, books and puzzles to promote positive images of all aspects of society; in addition she has accessed training and incorporates festivals and celebrations in her planning throughout the year. She has updated her documentation which records parental consents and children's records of attendance. All other required documentation is fully in place. The childminder has begun to reflect on her practice and has identified areas she wishes to develop further

Partnership with parents is a strong aspect from the onset. Parents are invited to discuss children's individual needs and starting points at the initial visit and throughout the settling in process. Ongoing communication with parents both written and verbal ensures children's needs continue to be well met. Parents speak highly of the childminder's care and attention their children receive. The childminder has developed effective links with other providers of the Early Years Foundation Stage and recognises how valuable partnerships can be of benefit to the child and their family.

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

Children thrive on the individual attention they receive from the childminder. She demonstrates a sound understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage and uses her knowledge of each child's stage of development to appropriately extend and set achievable challenges for each child. The childminder has recently commenced individual learning journals for each child and is yet to share these with parents to enable them to contribute towards the next steps of their child's learning and

development.

Children clearly enjoy and flourish from the individual attention they receive from the childminder. Their independence is promoted as the childminder arranges the resources and playthings within easy access. They enjoy looking at books together, developing imaginative play as they pretend to eat pieces of pizza for tea. The childminder skilfully develops children's language as she talks to the children, or mimics the sounds that the younger children make back to them. The range of resources provided promotes children's interest and are organised to support their individual development. For example, the smiles of delight as they learn to push buttons or turn knobs to wait for a figure to pop up. Children get regular access to fresh air and exercise as they walk to and from school. They learn how to keep themselves safe whilst out and about as they are introduced to road safety practices. A trip to the local fire station provides children with further opportunities to learn about keeping safe and people who help us. Children are beginning to learn important social skills for the future as they are encouraged by the childminder to share and take turns. Art and craft activities, dressing up, small world play, celebrations and books are used to promote children's awareness of the wider world. Children are provided with opportunities to meet other children as the childminder regularly attends various groups in her area. As a result children have access to a wider range of resources.

The childminder effectively promotes good hygiene practices; equipment is cleaned before and after use and children, are encouraged to develop their own personal hygiene practises at appropriate times, such as before and after meal times.

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

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

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the Early Years Foundation Stage	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

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

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

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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