

Inspection date	15/11/2012
Previous inspection date	19/11/2008

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	2
	Previous inspection:	3
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		2
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		2
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		2

The quality and standards of the early years provision

This provision is good

- Warm and caring relationships between the childminder and minded children help them to feel secure and settled.
- The childminder has a good understanding of how to promote the health and safety of children in her care. She has assessed the risks to her premises well and has minimised these, so children are able to use all areas safely.
- The childminder spends her time with the children, offering support if requested and interacting with them to extend their learning.
- The children are provided with a wide range of experiences on outings, which enhances their understanding of the world, physical and social development.

It is not yet outstanding because

- Parents do not contribute to the assessments of children's progress, which would further enhance children's learning and development.
- Children have limited opportunities to independently choose from the wide range of art materials that are available.

Information about this inspection

Inspections of registered early years provision are scheduled:

- at least once in every inspection cycle. The current cycle ends on 31 July 2016
- more frequently where Ofsted identifies a need to do so, for example where provision was previously judged as inadequate
- brought forward in the inspection cycle where Ofsted has received information that suggests the provision may not be meeting the legal requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage; or where assessment of the provision identifies a need for early inspection
- prioritised for inspection where we have received information that the provision is not meeting the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage and which suggests children may not be safe
- at the completion of an investigation into failure to comply with the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage.

The provision is also registered on the voluntary and compulsory parts of the Childcare Register. This report includes a judgment about compliance with the requirements of that register.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children's activities and interactions with the childminder.
- The inspector viewed a sample of documentation, including children's records, training records, policies and questionnaires.
- The inspector held discussions with the childminder throughout the inspection.

Inspector

Diana Rose

Full Report

Information about the setting

The childminder registered in 2008. She lives with her husband and two children aged 15 and 18 years in Potters Bar, Hertfordshire. The whole of the house is used for childminding and there is a secure garden for outside play. The family has a pet cat. The premises are accessed via two small steps.

The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. She currently cares for three children in the early years age group and one child in the later years age group. The childminder walks to nearby schools to collect children and regularly attends local toddler groups. She is open

all year round Monday to Friday, except for family holidays. She supports children with special educational needs and/or disabilities and those who speak English as an additional language. She is a member of the Potter's Bar childminding network.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

To further improve the quality of the early years provision the provider should:

- improve opportunities for children to make choices and develop their independence by considering the accessibility of resources for expressive arts
- develop further ways in which parents are supported and encouraged to contribute to their children's assessment records.

Inspection judgements

How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend

The childminder has a good understanding of how to capture children's interests and she fully recognises that they learn through play. She ensures that children of differing ages are well engaged in purposeful activities at all times. Teaching is strong and the childminder skilfully intervenes and extends children's learning during child-selected activities. Children are acquiring the skills, attitudes and dispositions they need to be ready for their next stage of learning and for school.

The childminder extends children's vocabulary as they build a farm for the animals out of bricks. Children listen attentively to stories or instructions. They enjoy favourite stories and develop a love of books. They are fascinated by a magnetic construction toy as they cope with putting together ends that repel and attract each other. Children's understanding of the world is developed as they hear about a range of cultures and participate in related art activities. It is further enhanced by outings to places of interest, such as the seaside and animal parks. Children concentrate hard and their fine motor skills are developed while playing with beads and threading cotton reels. Although, children freely choose games, toys and drawing materials, art materials are not as accessible and this restricts their independence.

Children make good progress in their learning and development given their abilities and starting points. The childminder monitors their development and learning. She observes and notes what they can do, identifies the next steps in their learning and uses this to plan appropriate activities. She shares these records with parents but they do not include

their own observations of their child, which would further enhance the outcomes for children.

The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children

Children play in a welcoming, well-maintained, clean and comfortable home. Interaction between the childminder and children is extremely strong. Children approach the childminder confidently throughout the day and enjoy cuddles for reassurance. This helps develop self-confidence and prepare them for transitions to new settings when the time occurs.

The childminder provides a good role model for children. She supports their language by repeating words clearly that young children try to say. The childminder shows them how to use equipment and toys safely. Safety is a high priority and risk assessments successfully identify and reduced hazards, so that children have a safe place to explore independently.

Behaviour is good because the childminder uses gentle reminders and simple explanations to reinforce appropriate conduct. Children are asked to take responsibility for putting toys away and generally clearing up after themselves, which they enjoy doing.

Children are encouraged to develop healthy lifestyles with a focus on healthy meals, snacks and on outdoor activities. They play in the garden and go on regular trips to toddler groups, soft-play and the park. This promotes their physical and social development.

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

The childminder understands her responsibilities in delivering the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage, so that children's all-round learning and welfare needs are well met. Thorough risk assessments minimise risk in the childminder's home. She has created an environment that is welcoming, safe and in which children enjoy their learning and grow in confidence. The childminder has completed safeguarding training and she is confident about the procedures to follow, should she have a concern about a child in her care.

The childminder is well organised and has a comprehensive range of policies to inform parents and provide details of her aims, role and responsibilities. Parents are informed of their children's activities each day. The childminder demonstrates a positive attitude to working in partnership with other providers, should the need arise. She is committed to providing a good quality service and seeks the views of children and parents, who comment that 'it is like home from home'. The childminder also attends training and gains further ideas from networking to ensure she is continually improving.

The Childcare Register

The requirements for the compulsory part of the Childcare Register are	Met
The requirements for the voluntary part of the Childcare Register are	Met

What inspection judgements mean

Registered early years provision

Grade	Judgement	Description
-------	-----------	-------------

Grade 1	Outstanding	Outstanding provision is highly effective in meeting the needs of all children exceptionally well. This ensures that children are very well prepared for the next stage of their learning.
Grade 2	Good	Good provision is effective in delivering provision that meets the needs of all children well. This ensures children are ready for the next stage of their learning.
Grade 3	Satisfactory	Satisfactory provision is performing less well than expectations in one or more of the key areas. It requires improvement in order to be good.
Grade 4	Inadequate	Provision that is inadequate requires significant improvement and/or enforcement. The provision is failing to give children an acceptable standard of early years education and/or is not meeting the safeguarding and welfare requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. It will be inspected again within 12 months of the date of this inspection.
Met		The provision has no children on roll. The inspection judgement is that the provider continues to meet the requirements for registration.
Not Met		The provision has no children on roll. The inspection judgement is that the provider does not meet the requirements for registration.

Inspection

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under Sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of provision that is registered on the Early Years Register. The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and care, known as the Early Years Foundation Stage.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY373906
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	821342
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	4
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	19/11/2008
Telephone number	

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the guidance 'raising concerns and making complaints about Ofsted', which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk. If you would like Ofsted to send you a copy of the guidance, please telephone 0300 123 4234, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

Type of provision

For the purposes of this inspection the following definitions apply:

Full-time provision is that which operates for more than three hours. These are usually known as nurseries, nursery schools and pre-schools and must deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage. They are registered on the Early Years Register and pay the higher fee for registration.

Sessional provision operates for more than two hours but does not exceed three hours in any one day. These are usually known as pre-schools, kindergartens or nursery schools and must deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage. They are registered on the Early Years Register and pay the lower fee for registration.

Childminders care for one or more children where individual children attend for a period of more than two hours in any one day. They operate from domestic premises that are usually their own home. They are registered on the Early Years Register and must deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage.

Out of school provision may be sessional or full-time provision and is delivered before or after school and/or in the summer holidays. They are registered on the Early Years Register and must deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage. Where children receive their

Early Years Foundation Stage in school these providers do not have to deliver the learning and development requirements in full but should complement the experiences children receive in school.

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, work-based learning and skills training, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for looked after children, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 4234, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may copy all or parts of this document for non-commercial educational purposes, as long as you give details of the source and date of publication and do not alter the information in any way.

To receive regular email alerts about new publications, including survey reports and school inspection reports, please visit our website and go to 'Subscribe'.

Piccadilly Gate
Store St
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 4234
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.ofsted.gov.uk

© Crown copyright 2012

