

## Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique reference number</b>	EY373418
<b>Inspection date</b>	10/09/2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Tracy Bartholomew

<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 report includes information on any complaints about the childcare provision which Ofsted has received since the last inspection or registration whichever is the later, which require Ofsted or the provider to take action in Annex C.

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.

## **Description of the childminding**

The childminder was registered in 2008. She is registered on the Early Years, Compulsory and Voluntary parts of the Childcare register. She lives with her daughter aged 10 years in Abingdon in Oxfordshire. Her home is readily accessible. Shops, toddler groups, a park, library and other amenities lie within walking distance. The childminder can take children to and collect them from, local schools and pre-schools.

The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding with sleep and toileting facilities available on the first floor. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The childminder is registered to care for six children at any one time and is currently minding, four children aged between one and four years and seven children between the ages of five and seven years all of whom attend on a part-time basis. The family have a pet cat.

## **Overall effectiveness of the early years provision**

All children are relaxed and happy within the care of this childminder. They enjoy a warm and welcoming environment where they have access to age appropriate and developmentally challenging toys and resources, however, these do not sufficiently cover all areas of learning. The childminder ensures she has a flexible daily plan for the children and sets activities up for the children which she knows they enjoy. However, she has an incomplete knowledge of the Early Years Foundation Stage. As a result, this impacts on her skills to provide challenges or develop children's learning on an ongoing basis for individual children. All children and families are treated as individuals and the childminder has a professional working relationship with parents. This ensures that they are kept informed of the majority of issues relating to their child's care and learning. The childminder has ensured her home is safe and suitable for the children; she takes a professional approach in caring for children. She is developing her knowledge, and improving her skills to self evaluate her practice to ensure all weaknesses are clearly identified. Children's health and hygiene is effectively maintained. Children have a varied, well balanced access to outdoor adventures for which the childminder plans well; this is to meet the needs of the children for whom she is caring.

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

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

- further increase knowledge and understanding of the early learning goals and ensure that relevant information of children's progress is shared with parents.
- develop further the resources and learning opportunities available for the children in relation to them developing their wider understanding of the world around them
- further develop the setting's risk assessments to ensure that it covers all activities carried out

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

The childminder is positive and committed to improving the care and learning that she offers to children. She welcomes all children into her home and provides a suitable space for them to play and explore freely. The children are confident and relaxed within their environment. The childminder clearly meets the children's individual care needs as she plays and creates masterpieces with them through knitting, arts and crafts and cooking. The childminder is flexible in her spontaneous planning, which ensures that the children experience a wide range of activities in and outside the home, although there are insufficient opportunities for children to gain a sufficient understanding of religion and cultures in the wider world.

There are good communication links with the parents which ensures that they are generally kept up to date with the children care routines and activities undertaken during the day. However, there is a limited focus on sharing children's learning progress and development, which means parents are not adequately aware of how their children are learning whilst in the childminder's care.

The childminder understands the importance of risk assessments and has a clear system to safeguard children whilst they are in the home and being transported. However, these are not totally robust as they do not extend to outings with the children, for instance when walking to and from school and visiting the local community. Suitable policies and procedures are in place; these are thoroughly discussed at the start of a minding agreement and available daily for parents to refer to if required. Additional documentation is in place to support the children's welfare, such as, registers and registration forms which include children's individual details, needs and consents for emergency treatment. Although the childminder is aware of the importance to reflect her practice she has not fully implemented this as yet which, as a result, has demonstrated a satisfactory knowledge of delivering the Early Years Foundation Stage. The childminder is conscious of this and is committed to improving her knowledge.

## **The quality and standards of the early years provision**

Children are confident and relaxed and clearly enjoy being in this childminder's company. They move confidently around her home, happily choosing what they want to do from the range of safe and suitable toys and resources on offer. The childminder has a suitable understanding of which toys are appropriate for the children in relation to the ages of those attending. She ensures that only toys that are suitable for all ages groups are at low level. The childminder plans a suitable amount of play opportunities for the children, for example, a train set, car, garages and dolls. However, currently the activities and toys offered do not sufficiently allow children to develop a full understanding of religion and cultures in the wider world. Children are fully aware of the play materials at the childminder and freely access further materials to assist their role play if required. This assists the children in the freedom for focused play and investigation.

The childminder is aware of how she can support children's learning and development and does this by not overpowering the children daily. This is apparent when the child is doing the animal farm puzzles. The childminder encourages the child to look at the shapes and pictures on the puzzles. Once completed, she asked further questions to the child that included what sounds the animal makes and reinforcing the colours the child knew. The childminder promotes creativeness and fine motor skills well through the use of arts and crafts, such as, knitting, exploring media and sensory items, such as, cooking and dough play.

Children behave well and are gently reminded of the rules of the home, such as sharing. The children and the childminder have devised their own rules whilst in the setting which are all worded positively and displayed in the kitchen; this helps to reinforce all positive behaviour. Children are taken outside daily to ensure they receive a suitable amount of fresh air and exercise. They enjoy walks and outings to the local parks. This in turn assists the children's physical skills whilst developing their skills of safety when using the Green Cross Code. In addition, they visit the library and toddler groups to develop their social skills and learn about the wider world. The childminder understands the importance of professional working relationships with the parents; she ensures that they are daily updated of their child care needs. However, insufficient information is shared of children's learning progress and development, which as a result, means parents are not fully up to date with the developmental progression their children have made whilst in her care.

Children are well safeguarded whilst at the home. They play safely indoors and out due to the awareness the childminder has in maintaining the visual risk assessments. However, currently risk assessments do not include activities outside of the home. Children are taught basic house rules to protect themselves, such as, using the latch on the bathroom door. The childminder teaches them good personal hygiene routines and is practical in encouraging their independence. Young children are taught, after their nappies have been changed, to wash their hand thoroughly using the soap appropriately, to develop their understanding of good hygiene. In addition, the children's health is further protected due to the childminder meeting the individual needs and ensuring that the children have use of a clean home environment where all potential risks of cross-infection is minimised effectively.

## Annex A: record of inspection judgements

### The key inspection judgements and what they mean

*Outstanding: this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality*

*Good: this aspect of the provision is strong*

*Satisfactory: this aspect of the provision is sound*

*Inadequate: this aspect of the provision is not good enough*

### Overall effectiveness

<b>How effective is the provision in meeting the needs of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage?</b>	Satisfactory
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	Satisfactory
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	Satisfactory

### Leadership and management

<b>How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?</b>	Satisfactory
How effective is the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement?	Satisfactory
How well does the setting work in partnership with parents and others?	Good
How well are children safeguarded?	Satisfactory

### Quality and standards

<b>How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?</b>	Satisfactory
<b>How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?</b>	Satisfactory
How well are children helped to stay safe?	Satisfactory
How well are children helped to be healthy?	Good
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	Satisfactory
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	Satisfactory
How well are children helped develop skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being?	Satisfactory

Any complaints about the inspection or report should be made following the procedures set out in the guidance available from Ofsted's website: [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)

## **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

## **Annex C: complaint/s made to Ofsted**

This section of the report includes details of any complaint/s made to Ofsted when:

- we took action for the provider to meet the requirements of the Early Years Register; or
- we asked the provider to take action in order to meet the requirements of the Early Years Register; or
- the provider had already taken any necessary action to meet the requirements of the Early Years Register.

We will not report on any complaint where the provider met the requirements of the Early Years Register or did not require any action by Ofsted or the registered provider.

### **Detail of the complaint/s**

Not applicable.

The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by parents, which they can see on request. The complaints record may contain complaints other than those made to Ofsted.