

## Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique reference number</b>	142385
<b>Inspection date</b>	28/01/2009
<b>Inspector</b>	Joyce Bowler

<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 has been registered since 1986. She lives with her husband and youngest child in Wellington, Somerset. Minded children have access to the ground floor and one bedroom upstairs is used for sleeping children. There is a fully enclosed garden at the rear of the house. The family care for a rabbit which is kept in the garden. The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and both parts of the Childcare Register. She may provide care for a maximum of six children under eight at any one time. Currently, she is minding ten children, three of whom are in the early years age group. The registration does not include overnight care. The childminder has a National Vocational Qualification in childcare and education at level three. She is a member of an approved childminding network and is in receipt of funding for three and four year olds.

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

Overall the quality of the provision is good. The childminder provides a well organised home which is welcoming to children and their families. She has been minding for many years and maintains continuous improvement by keeping up to date with the changes to early years care and monitoring her risk assessment procedures. The childminder has a good knowledge of each child's individual needs and interests and uses this to tailor activities and routines on a daily basis. All aspects of welfare, learning and welfare are promoted effectively.

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

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

- continue to review and develop planning and assessment systems

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

The childminder organises the use of her home, documentation and activities well in order to provide children with a wide range of opportunities to learn as they play. She has addressed the recommendations made at her last inspection which results in improvements to safety, documentation and the provision for learning and development for all minded children. The childminder has identified her own list of actions to raise standards by means of formal self-evaluation using the Ofsted online form and the Somerset childminding network assessment schedule. These confirm her strong commitment to maintaining good childcare and add to the information provided for parents and her own IT skills. The childminder is accredited and has achieved the National Childminding Association quality assurance award which includes a large degree of self-evaluation as part of the process. The childminder values her partnership with parents and has formed strong bonds with the families she provides childcare for. She uses both verbal feedback at drop off and collection as well as written assessment records to share

children's progress and achievements with parents. When a child leaves she gives parents a memory book full of children's art, craft and written work. All parents have access to her policies and procedures. The childminder invites communication outside of her working hours via phone or email to maintain links with parents.

The childminder is fully aware of her role and responsibilities regarding the safeguarding of children. She has enrolled on an update course as part of her personal development programme. She maintains written policies and procedures for child protection and keeps the Local Safeguarding Children Board handbook on file.

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

The childminder has developed her knowledge and understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage by building on her experience in delivering the Foundation Stage curriculum previously and extending this to all children attending currently. She is able to provide activities and experiences which cover each of the six areas of learning and to help children to progress towards the early learning goals. She encourages spontaneous play which promotes independence and good self esteem as children are able to choose resources. She integrates learning into everyday routines, such as shopping and preparing a snack when children are able to choose a fruit or vegetable and to count the cut up pieces. Children are able to develop their personal, social and emotional skills as they are included in all activities and helped to make good relationships with other minded children. This approach fosters good behaviour and enables the youngest children to feel valued and welcomed. This is demonstrated when she extends the treasure hunt game to enable a baby to join in. Resources and equipment are appropriate for the ages minded, for example she provides bouncy chairs, baby nests and high chairs to help babies to learn to sit up, see what is going on and to join in. Other aids help them to grow in mobility when ready. The childminder demonstrates a good level of affectionate and loving care which other children learn from and copy. They enjoy helping the childminder around the home, for example, fetching the wet wipes and chatting to babies as they are changed. The childminder produces formal planning in the form of long term topics which are based on cultural and seasonal events. Children's achievements are beginning to be recorded in their individual Learning Pathways folders and in daily diaries. The childminder uses sticky notes to jot down observations during play and adds these to children's folders to build a whole picture of their development. She uses photographs to illustrate the full range of activities offered to children which she shares with parents. She links themes from pre-school to what goes on at her home to provide continuity of learning for children. Children minded after school are provided with appropriate resources and activities to interest and entertain them. They are often tired after a long day at school and are able to rest and relax.

Children's welfare needs are met well which promotes all five of the outcomes from the Every Child Matters framework. All aspects of health and safety are addressed to a very high standard which protects children from harm and helps them to learn to keep themselves clean, healthy and safe. Very young children are able to talk themselves through the hand washing routine and are praised for

remembering to turn off the taps themselves. They are learning road safety procedures when out on walks and trips. The childminder carries out extensive risk assessments of her home, garden and on outings. There are various safety measures in place which protect children and these include a fixed fire guard, finger guards on internal doors and a carbon monoxide detector. Her sitting room provides a large area of floor space that is bright and well arranged to provide space for children to spread out and play. Parents provide all food except for snacks which the childminder ensures are healthy and fresh and adhere to any specific dietary requirements. She provides drinks in children's own beakers, bottles and cups during play. The childminder displays her certificate and maintains all records required by registration. She has additional policies and procedures which support her provision and these are all shared with parents.

## 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*

### Overall effectiveness

<b>How effective is the provision in meeting the needs of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage?</b>	2
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	2
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	2

### Leadership and management

<b>How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?</b>	2
How effective is the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement?	2
How well does the setting work in partnership with parents and others?	2
How well are children safeguarded?	2

### Quality and standards

<b>How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?</b>	2
<b>How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?</b>	2
How well are children helped to stay safe?	1
How well are children helped to be healthy?	1
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	2
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	2
How well are children helped develop skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being?	2

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**

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action.

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.