

## Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique reference number</b>	126749
<b>Inspection date</b>	29/09/2010
<b>Inspector</b>	Mary van de Peer

<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 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**

This childminder was registered in 1993 and lives with her husband . They live in Broadstairs, Kent. The house is situated within easy access to local amenities, including shops, schools and parks. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The childminder is registered to care for six children, three of whom may be in the early years age group. The childminder is currently caring for three children in the early years age group. Overnight care is not provided. The childminder has a pet rabbit. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and has a qualification in childcare and education. The childminder is on the Early Years Register and on both the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Child Care Register.

## **The overall effectiveness of the early years provision**

Overall the quality of the provision is good.

The childminder treats children as individuals according to their needs, age and stage of development. The childminder works in close partnership with parents to ensure that children receive continuity of care. The childminder is outstanding in the way she deploys resources and activities. Children of all ages have excellent choices in a wide range of sustainable and quality resources, with the freedom to play indoors and outside. All activities are clearly linked to the six areas of learning and planning follows on from the observations and monitoring of the children. This enables the childminder to identify the children's next steps and move them forward at their own pace. The childminder is constantly evaluating her provision, clearly identifying areas for improvement and setting targets to make these improvements. The childminder is very proactive regarding the service she offers and undertakes regular training and qualifications to ensure that her knowledge is up to date. Overall, an inclusive and welcoming service is provided.

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

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

- develop further the partnerships with other providers involved in the care of the children present, helping to promote continuity of care
- review and improve the quality of parental input in their children's learning and development progress

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

The childminder has attended several updating safeguarding training courses. This means she has a good knowledge and understanding of child protection procedures. The childminder has a good understanding on the possible signs of abuse and has a sound knowledge of the procedures to follow, should she have any concerns about a child in her care. The home environment is regularly risk assessed and immediate measures are taken to ensure hazards are minimised, there is a clear, written record in place. There is an extensive range of well written and easy to read policies and procedures, which are shared with parents. The childminder fully understands her role and responsibility to the children she minds.

Children are able to play, learn and grow in a child friendly and comfortable environment. The outstanding deployment and planning of activities and the availability of toys and resources, allows children to have freedom in what they choose to do. Storage of toys and resources is easily accessible. They are able to play inside and outdoors all year round. Children each have wet suits so that they can go outside whatever the weather. All resources and equipment are good quality and are checked regularly for any damage. The childminder really enjoys devising and hand-making some of her activities, which seem to be the most popular of all the resources with the children. The childminder uses the Early Years Foundation Stage to ensure that she is meeting children's individual needs. She completes comprehensive observations of the children, assessing their development and identifying next steps. The childminder uses these records to influence the future planning for each child. The interests and skills of the children are also included in the planning. Children have the opportunity to learn about how to be caring and develop an understanding of the world around them through caring for the pet rabbit the childminder owns and respecting each other.

The childminder is continually looking at ways to move forward and improve her minding service. She has completed the on-line self evaluation form regarding her provision. There is also excellent ongoing evaluations on every area of her childminding service, this continually being added to. Parental questionnaires have been used to seek their views and opinions. The childminder is very pro-active towards her training and is continuing with her learning and child care knowledge. She has undertaken several local child care courses and is currently in her second year of a Foundation degree in Childhood Studies. All parents receive relevant documents and policies. All records and paperwork are well kept and up to date. The childminder makes sure she has important personal and background information on each child, enabling her to provide the appropriate care for each child.

There is a good and supportive partnership between the childminder and the parents. Parents are kept continually informed of their child's progress through the daily contact book. The childminder also texts parents to help keep them updated. However, there is only limited written information on the involvement by parents in their children's learning and developmental folders. Parents are always fully included in the future improvement of the childminder's service. The links with

other organisations have not been so well established in the past but the childminder is now aiming to improve her communication with other providers involved in the care of the children she minds.

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

The childminder has a very good understanding of how children learn and develop. She provides children with an excellent range of activities and resources which encourage and support their progress in all areas of learning. There are activities available that are planned according to children's next steps and individual interests. For instance, one of the children loves music and always gravitates toward music making resources, which the childminder makes sure are always available. Children are also able to make decisions about what they would like to do. Children have free access to the toys and equipment both indoors and in the garden. This all promotes their independence. The childminder knows the children extremely well and has minded most of them since they were babies. She works closely with parents to ascertain children's starting points. This results in the childminder being able to identify their future needs and provide them with activities which are challenging, interesting and enjoyable. This helps to extend their knowledge and learning. The childminder spends all her time talking, listening and often playing with the children, especially the very young ones. Children play happily with the childminder and the interaction between them is very affectionate and close.

The environment is extremely well organised and is safe for children to play freely in. Their welfare is fully considered and promoted. Children regularly take part in fire drill emergency evacuation procedures, all of which are recorded. A designated fire drill folder contains contact information on each child and other useful documentation. This is taken out by the childminder in an emergency situation, meaning she always has relevant and important information to hand. Children are also taught road safety and so they are learning how to keep themselves safe. Children are clearly very comfortable in the company and care of the childminder. Parents provide their children's food and water is always available for children to drink. Children are beginning to understand about eating balanced diets. Outdoor play is available all year round and children are able to take activities from indoors to outside in the garden. This facility and trips to local parks promotes children's physical development.

The childminder supports children's behaviour by setting a good example for them and is an excellent role model. She encourages children to respect each other, share and take turns. Children benefit from lots of support, praise and encouragement which helps them with their self esteem and search for increased independence. Children are provided with very effective learning opportunities in a safe and caring environment.

## 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

<b>How well does the setting meet the needs of the children in the Early Years Foundation Stage?</b>	2
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement	1

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

<b>The effectiveness of leadership and management of the Early Years Foundation Stage</b>	2
The effectiveness of leadership and management in embedding ambition and driving improvement	1
The effectiveness with which the setting deploys resources	1
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	1
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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### Outcomes for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage

<b>Outcomes for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage</b>	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	1

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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

The provider confirms that the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register are: Met