

Inspection date	20 January 2015
Previous inspection date	27 October 2011

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

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- Children and babies settle well because they feel happy and secure in the care of the childminder and her assistant.
- The childminder provides a good variety of activities to stimulate children and promote their learning.
- The childminder has secure observation, assessment, and planning procedures, which contribute to children making effective progress in their learning and development.
- The childminder has strong links with parents and other early years professionals. She communicates well, shares information on a daily basis and welcomes their opinions to develop her provision.
- There is a very good emphasis on keeping children safe and healthy. Fresh air and exercise is part of the daily routine and children are encouraged to work out for themselves when there are risks as they play.
- The childminder is a very reflective practitioner and enthusiastically attends training to bring about further improvements to children's learning and development.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The childminder is not taking every opportunity to encourage children to recognise numbers in the environment.
- The childminder does not maximise the opportunities for children to develop their independence further at mealtimes.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance opportunities for children to develop their mathematical awareness, for example, by providing more number labels for them to use
- provide even more opportunities to encourage children's independence, for example, by allowing them to pour their own drinks at mealtimes.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the indoor learning environment and looked around the premises.
- The inspector held discussions with the childminder about the children's progress and achievements.
- The inspector viewed the children's development records.
- The inspector saw evidence of the suitability and qualifications of the childminder and her assistant, self-evaluation, risk assessment and policies and procedures.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents from references obtained by the childminder.

Inspector

Patricia Champion

Inspection findings

How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend. This is good

The childminder understands how children learn and is highly focused on helping them develop the skills they need for future learning. Teaching is good as the activity planning is flexible and child-led, allowing children to develop their own ideas and experiences. The childminder continually interacts with children, narrating their play and skilfully asking questions to promote their communication and language development. Consequently, children can name colours, confidently talk about pictures they see in books and use their imagination as they play. Outings to the beach and local parks effectively develop children's understanding of the natural world. Daily routines are used well to encourage children to count and calculate. However, children have fewer opportunities to see and recognise numbers in the play environment. The childminder skilfully assesses children's progress, and accurately identifies their starting points and their next steps. Parents become involved in their children's learning because they are regularly asked for their views on how they feel their child is progressing, both in the setting and at home.

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

Children develop strong bonds and receive plenty of warmth and affection from the childminder and her assistant. They confidently choose play materials in the well-equipped playroom. They begin to develop a sense of responsibility as they help to tidy toys away. Children are polite, respectful individuals who respond well to the childminder's expectations for good behaviour. Parents provide useful information about their children to help them settle in. This also means that the childminder is knowledgeable about medical needs and can confidently cater for special dietary requirements. Children receive nutritious snacks and meals, which encourages them to develop healthy eating habits. However, the childminder does not fully promote children's already good independent skills, by consistently allowing them to do things for themselves at mealtimes. Children have regular opportunities to mix with others at local community groups, so they become emotionally prepared for starting nursery or school.

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

The childminder has a good knowledge of the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. The recommendations raised at the last inspection have been successfully addressed and a risk assessment is now used effectively to ensure that children remain safe. The childminder has a secure understanding of her child protection responsibilities and ensures that her assistant also regularly updates his knowledge of childcare issues. As a result, they both know to act promptly if they have concerns about a child's well-being. Children's progress is carefully monitored to ensure that the educational programme is tailored to the needs and abilities of each child and there are no gaps in learning. Links with other professionals, such as the network coordinator, other childminders and teaching staff at the local primary school are used successfully to provide a high level of support for children and their families.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY346003
Local authority	Southend on Sea
Inspection number	878285
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	6
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	27 October 2011
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 2006 and lives in Leigh-on-Sea, Essex. She operates all year round from 7am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, except bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder's husband occasionally works with her as an assistant. She receives funding for the provision of early education for three- and four-year-old children.

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