

Inspection date	20 January 2015
Previous inspection date	8 September 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

- The childminder has very robust safeguarding procedures, which keeps the children safe from harm. Policies and procedures underpin the childminder's good safeguarding practice.
- The childminder has forged strong relationships with parents and this ensures a cooperative approach to children's learning and development.
- Children enjoy a wide range of exciting and stimulating experiences that interest and engage them. Consequently, they make good progress.
- The childminder promotes babies' early communication and language skills very well, interacting with them sensitively and tuning into the sounds they make; talking about what is happening during everyday routines and as they play.
- The childminder demonstrates a strong commitment to providing a high quality provision for children. She has completed a formal childcare qualification since registering as a childminder, which has impacted positively on her practice.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Children cannot easily see or access drawing and writing materials, which means that they cannot freely practise early writing skills.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- provide more opportunities for children to spontaneously practise their early writing skills.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the rooms used and looked at the outdoor environment.
- The inspector discussed an activity undertaken during the inspection, with the childminder.
- The inspector spoke to the children and the childminder at suitable times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector looked at children's assessment files and discussed planning.
- The inspector checked evidence of the suitability and the qualifications of the childminder.

Inspector

Trish Potts

Inspection findings

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

The childminder provides a welcoming and stimulating environment. She has developed very close relationships with children and is very sensitive to their needs, ensuring they feel comfortable and confident. She interacts with young children very effectively, promoting their early communication and language skills. The childminder provides a wide range of readily available, exciting experiences. As a result, children are interested and engaged effectively in activities. However, children do not always have access to writing equipment, which prevents them from spontaneously practising early writing skills. The childminder has built up very strong relationships with parents and the schools children attend to support their learning and development. This provides a good basis for children to learn and to reach their expected targets in the Early Years Foundation Stage. Consequently, they make good progress.

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

The childminder recognises the importance of children feeling comfortable and secure from the start and tailors settling-in procedures to meet their individual needs. She talks to parents about their children before they start and this exchange of information is maintained, ensuring their individual needs are met consistently. The childminder's home is clean and hygienic. Children are learning about good hygiene practices when they wash hands before and after eating. The childminder has a very calm and consistent attitude towards behaviour management and she is a good role model for children, with realistic expectations. As a result, children are well behaved and respectful to others. The childminder positively promotes children's good physical development and health. She provides healthy snacks as well as opportunities for energetic play indoors and outside. Children's social skills and confidence are developing through regular attendance at groups where the childminder also helps them to learn about their diverse community. This helps children to prepare to move onto their next stage of learning.

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

The childminder has a good understanding of the learning and development and safeguarding and welfare requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. The childminder is organised in her provision and has robust policies and procedures, which underpin her good practice. The environment is safe and secure as the childminder has conducted risk assessments for all areas of her home. She has effective measures in place to ensure the safety and well-being of children. She has a good understanding of the procedures to follow if she has a concern about a child's welfare. The childminder has a strong commitment to her professional development and to the continual improvement of her practice. She has gained a formal childcare qualification and attends regular training, in order to improve and inform her practice. Children's development records are comprehensive and show individual planning and assessments, highlighting the good progress they are making.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY413129
Local authority	Durham
Inspection number	879782
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	9
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	8 September 2011
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 2010. She lives in Consett, County Durham. The childminder holds a qualification at level 3 and operates all year round, from 7am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, except bank holidays and family holidays.

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