

Inspection date	26 January 2015
Previous inspection date	12 October 2009

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Outstanding	1
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Outstanding	1
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Outstanding	1
The setting meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- Children are extremely motivated by the excellent enthusiasm and teaching skills of the childminder. She focuses on children's communication and language skills superbly, asking open-ended questions and ensuring children are given time to answer. This helps children to make rapid progress in all aspects of their learning and development.
- The childminder provides a highly stimulating environment both indoors and outdoors, which truly promotes children's curiosity and exploration. As a result, children are extremely confident and clearly demonstrate the characteristics of effective learning.
- Children's learning and development is accurately monitored by the childminder, through precise and detailed observations and assessments. Consequently, her planning is sharply focussed on children's next steps in their learning and leads to rich, varied and imaginative experiences being provided.
- Children are extremely secure and develop exceptional relationships with the childminder. Home visits are used for children who need additional support, to emotionally prepare them for the move from home to the childminder's care.
- The childminder is highly motivated and dedicated to improving the quality of care and education for children and their families. She has a level 3 childcare qualification, attends a wealth of training and researches new practices to continually improve her already excellent knowledge of child development.
- Partnerships with parents are exemplary. The childminder uses excellent methods to involve parents in their children's learning. She gives advice and guidance to help ensure that children's care and learning needs are met exceedingly well.
- The childminder places high priority on safeguarding children. She attends regular childminder meetings, where safeguarding practices are discussed. As a result, her safeguarding policy is reviewed systematically with any new information, such as challenging extremism and e-safety. This means that children are highly protected.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- consider extending the highly robust methods for self-evaluation even further, by seeking the views of external professionals to observe practice, to continue to provide outstanding outcomes for children.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed a planned activity and discussed the teaching and learning taking place with the childminder.
- The inspector spoke with the children and the childminder at regular intervals throughout the inspection.
- The inspector checked evidence of suitability and training certificates.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents and carers through feedback included in parents' questionnaires.
- The inspector observed a range of activities in the playroom and the outside play area.
- The inspector looked at a selection of policies and procedures which included safeguarding and complaints, children's learning records, the childminder's self-evaluation and a range of other documentation.

Inspector

Val Thomas

Inspection findings

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

The childminder plans innovative activities and enthusiastically engages with children in their learning. Children show excellent concentration skills as they fill the containers in the mud kitchen outside. The childminder superbly motivates younger children's interest in the textures of the leaves and fir cones, and encourages them to paint the plastic screen with water. Children are extremely eager to swirl the frozen paint to make circles and use their hands and fingers to make marks. The childminder places high importance on developing children's mathematical understanding throughout activities. Children enjoy singing and are extremely confident to repeat and learn the new words introduced by the childminder. They eagerly shake the ribbons, saying 'shake, shake'. The childminder provides story sacks, activity packs and singing sacks to share with parents. This means that they can continue with supporting their children's rapid learning and development in the home.

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

The very effective settling-in procedures support children's emotional well-being to a high level. The childminder is extremely caring and sensitive to children's individual needs. Consequently, children feel secure and have high levels of confidence. The childminder has re-organised her home to provide a self-contained area for childminding. Resources are extremely well organised to give children excellent opportunities to make choices, and to promote their independence. Children learn to manage their own self-care during routines to develop their independence further. This helps to prepare children for the move to school. Excellent hygiene practices ensure children are protected from cross-infection. The childminder provides ample opportunities for children to play outside in the fresh air, and to grow vegetables in the garden, to promote their good health. The childminder expertly manages behaviour, reinforcing children's understanding of how to behave in a positive manner. Excellent arrangements are in place to support children when it is time to make the move to school. This ensures their care and learning is complemented.

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

The childminder's vast knowledge and experience, ensures she fully understands how to support all children's needs to an exceptional level. She uses the knowledge gained from training to continually enhance early communication skills so that children make outstanding progress. The childminder implements rigorous methods to ensure the safety of all areas used. The childminder robustly evaluates her practices and proactively acts on feedback from parents. For example, she is currently implementing an electronic system to enhance the sharing of information with parents. However, there is scope to enhance the self-evaluation process even further, by seeking the views of other professionals, to provide even more ideas about how to continue the excellent care and learning. The childminder has comprehensive policies and procedures in place, which support her in providing care and learning for children to an outstanding level.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY306621
Local authority	Staffordshire
Inspection number	861901
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	12 October 2009
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 2005 and lives in the village of Walton, Staffordshire. She operates all year round from 7am to 6pm, Monday to Thursday, except bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. She holds a formal childcare qualification equivalent to Level 3.

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