

<b>Inspection date</b>	22 January 2015
Previous inspection date	18 August 2014

<b>The quality and standards of the early years provision</b>	<b>This inspection:</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>2</b>
	Previous inspection:	Inadequate	4
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 <b>meets legal requirements for early years settings</b>			

## Summary of key findings for parents

### This provision is good

- The childminder provides children with a variety of stimulating resources and activities, both indoors and outside. Consequently, children are engaged, motivated to learn and make good progress.
- Arrangements for safeguarding children are effective and clear policies and procedures are implemented well. The childminder regularly refreshes her knowledge and understanding to ensure this is accurate and current.
- Children settle well and enjoy their time in the childminder's care. Children feel safe and build strong attachments, which promotes their emotional well-being and confidence.
- The childminder has effective partnerships with parents. The childminder provides regular opportunities to keep parents well informed about their child's progress, which ensures that learning is supported at home.
- Since the last inspection, the childminder has improved the quality of her provision, benefiting the children in her care.

### It is not yet outstanding because:

- Sometimes, the childminder misses opportunities during adult-led activities to extend children's learning. This means their critical thinking skills are not always fully promoted.
- Children are not always able to access their resources in the outdoor environment to promote their independence and confidence.

## What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance children's learning even further during adult-led activities, by encouraging them to work problems out for themselves
- review the storage arrangements of resources in the outdoor environment to enable children to access all resources independently, to support their self-confidence.

## Inspection activities

- The inspector sampled children's assessment records and planning documentation.
- The inspector checked evidence of the suitability and qualifications of the childminder and looked at a selection of policies and procedures including safeguarding, risk assessments and self-evaluation.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation of the assistant with the childminder.
- The inspector took into account the views of parents by reading a number of comments and notes given to the childminder.
- The inspector carried out a tour of the premises.

## Inspector

Alison Regan

## Inspection findings

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

The childminder has a good knowledge and understanding of the learning and development requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. The childminder understands how children learn and adapts her learning styles to suit the abilities of the children. A variety of teaching techniques are used to ensure all children make good progress. However, during adult-planned activities, the childminder sometimes misses opportunities to challenge and extend children's learning. This means their critical thinking skills are not always fully promoted. The childminder provides a stimulating and challenging educational programme of activities, which support children in making good progress. Younger children are well supported as they play with toy dinosaurs, which are different sizes in the sand pit. Older children enjoy exploring the gloop, talking about the texture and using words, such as 'squelch', 'trickle' and 'cold'. These activities develop their skills in readiness for the next stage in their learning and their eventual move to school.

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

Children settle very quickly in the warm, welcoming atmosphere created by the childminder. Children's dietary needs are catered for; all meals are home-cooked and healthy. Children's physical skills are promoted in the setting as children have daily access to the outdoors in the garden. Children behave well because they receive positive praise and encouragement; the childminder is quick to remind children of her expectations when required. The childminder ensures children maintain good hygiene procedures, she supervises them to wash their hands after playing outside or before meals. Children are encouraged to manage their self-help skills as they put their coats and outdoor shoes on independently to play outside. Children have access to a variety of toys and resources indoors, which supports them with their learning and independence. However, children are not always able to access their resources independently in the outdoor environment.

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

The childminder has effective systems in place to improve the quality of her provision. She has addressed actions and recommendations agreed at the last inspection, which demonstrates she has the capacity to improve her provision. The childminder has recently employed an assistant, she committed to ensuring that he attends relevant training to ensure children in her care make continued progress in their learning. She is also devoted to completing observations of the assistant's practice and carrying out supervision to continually monitor his practice. The childminder carries out risk assessments to help her make sure that children are safe in the home and when on outings. The childminder works in partnership with schools to ensure that there is a consistent approach to children's learning. The childminder has a good understanding of how she would work with outside agencies to help her support children with special educational needs and/or disabilities.

## Setting details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	313019
<b>Local authority</b>	Knowsley
<b>Inspection number</b>	988447
<b>Type of provision</b>	Childminder
<b>Registration category</b>	Childminder
<b>Age range of children</b>	0 - 17
<b>Total number of places</b>	6
<b>Number of children on roll</b>	12
<b>Name of provider</b>	
<b>Date of previous inspection</b>	18 August 2014
<b>Telephone number</b>	

The childminder was registered in 1993. She lives in Prescott, Merseyside. The whole ground floor of the house and the rear garden are used for childminding. The childminder works with an assistant. The childminder operates all year round from 6.30am to 6.30pm, Monday to Friday, except bank holidays and family holidays. She holds an appropriate early years qualification at level 3.

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