

Inspection date	26 January 2015
Previous inspection date	4 March 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

- Teaching is good. The childminder is skilled at observing and assessing children's development. She then uses the information gained to provide them with a wide range of stimulating activities. This means they are all making good progress in their learning in preparation for school.
- Children are protected and kept safe. This is because the childminder has a good understanding of child-protection procedures and also regularly checks her home, all the toys, and equipment for safety.
- The childminder has established good links with the nursery that children also attend. Consequently, there is a joint approach to promoting children's learning and development.
- The childminder's practice is supported by good policies and procedures, which are well-organised and shared with parents. This helps to promote good outcomes for children.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The childminder has not enhanced her already good skills to raise the quality of teaching so it is consistently outstanding and children's progress is rapid.
- The childminder does not encourage parents sufficiently to share what they know about their children's progress when they first join the setting.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen the methods for gathering information from parents about their children's stage of development when they start at the setting, and continue to work together to agree future learning opportunities
- build on the already good teaching skills, for example, by attending further training and networking sessions, so children's learning is increased to an outstanding level.

Inspection activities

- The inspector viewed all areas used by the children.
- The inspector spoke to the childminder and children at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the childminder.
- The inspector took into account the views of parents from their written comments.
- The inspector looked at children's records and assessments, the childminder's self-evaluation document and a sample of policies and procedures.

Inspector

Joanne Gray

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 understanding of the learning and development requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. Children are motivated to learn and are making good progress because they can independently access a range of stimulating activities, planned around their interests. The childminder plays alongside children during activities, and has an enthusiastic manner so they remain interested. For example, toddlers concentrate for a long time looking at books because she lets them lift the flaps over and over, and they laugh together about what they can see underneath. They learn new words and sounds as they repeat the animal's names and the noises they make. Children practise counting as they play and the childminder shows them how to point to each object to help them reach the right number. She observes children after they have settled so she knows where they are in their development. Parents are regularly informed about activities that their children take part in, and the progress they are making. However, the childminder does not ask parents enough about what their children already know and can do before they start at the setting. Therefore she does not have all the relevant information from which to establish children's starting points.

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

Children develop good attachments with the childminder and go to her for reassurance if they are unsure about unfamiliar faces in the setting. Their well-being is maintained and they are happy and content. Children behave well because the childminder acts as a good role model, offering them encouragement and praise. This also promotes children's self-esteem. Children are becoming independent and developing healthy lifestyles. For example, they help the childminder to prepare their healthy snacks so they understand about good nutrition. They have access to the large garden every day, which supports their physical development. They learn about the natural world, for example, as they feed the horses in the adjoining field.

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

The childminder has formed good relationships with parents and parents' comments are very complimentary about the service she provides. For example, they say they are 'extremely happy' and that she is 'patient with strong communication skills.' The childminder attends some training to ensure she meets the safeguarding and welfare requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage, for example, paediatric first aid and child protection courses. However, the training opportunities accessed are not sufficient to ensure that her good teaching is raised to a consistently outstanding level and children make rapid progress in their learning. The childminder shows a positive approach to improving the service she provides. She reflects on her practice through self-evaluation and effectively targets areas for further development.

Setting details

Unique reference number	258764
Local authority	Nottinghamshire
Inspection number	818562
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	8
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	4 March 2011
Telephone number	

The childminder first registered in 2001. The provision operates all year round from 7am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder holds an appropriate early years qualification at level 3.

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