

Inspection date	28 January 2015
Previous inspection date	7 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

- Children receive effective teaching from the childminder. She has a level 3 qualification, which enables her to successfully understand and promote children's thinking and language by using open-ended questions about the choices they make and what they are doing.
- Children show they have formed strong bonds and attachments with the childminder. This is evident as children show that they feel safe and secure and demonstrate good levels of behaviour, confidence and self-esteem.
- Partnerships with parents are very good. Parents describe the childminder as 'caring, thoughtful, attentive and diligent'. She is flexible in her care arrangements to meet the needs of families with changing needs. Regular sharing of information, records and documentation support children's good health and well-being.
- The childminder regularly updates her training and demonstrates a detailed knowledge and understanding about her role and responsibility to protect children and keep them safe from harm. She effectively teaches children to recognise risk for themselves and, therefore, supports their understanding of keeping safe.
- The childminder provides a good choice of interesting and challenging activities and resources to stimulate children and engage their thinking. She successfully extends their learning through introducing new words, colours shapes and numbers into children's play.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The childminder does not maximise children's opportunities to extend their learning in the outdoor environment. For example, they do not expand their understanding of healthy foods by growing their own fruit and vegetables.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- expand the opportunities for children to further develop their understanding of leading healthy lifestyles, for example, by providing ongoing activities where children can learn to produce their own fresh fruit and vegetables.

Inspection activities

- The inspector spoke to and interacted with the childminder and children throughout the inspection.
- The inspector looked at the environment, resources and equipment provided and how effectively they are used to support children's play and learning.
- The inspector examined a selection of information and documentation relating to the suitability of adults, children's safeguarding, welfare and developmental progress.
- The inspector and childminder jointly observed and discussed children's learning and development during play.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents through references, parent questionnaires and other written comments.

Inspector

Susan Parker

Inspection findings

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

The childminder delivers the Early Years Foundation Stage effectively. She assesses children's progress, from their starting points, against the typical expectations for their age. The childminder's effective teaching promotes children's communication and language. For example, toddlers hold full conversations with her, listening, thinking and responding. She supports children's personal, social and emotional development well. Children who are shy or less confident make rapid progress. This is due to the childminder's gentle, motivational support. She interacts with them and observes them as they play to extend their thinking and learning. For example, she asks children where the horses should go. Children think the process through and remember to shut the gate behind the animals. This shows they link their play and experiences well in their learning. The childminder provides suitable challenges, which enables children to make good progress. These are carefully planned into interesting activities, which support children's readiness for school.

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

Children's emotional well-being is supported. They respond positively to the calm and nurturing nature of the childminder. They display responsible behaviour and are aware of keeping themselves safe. For example, children know they must only get out of the car on the pavement side and, when walking, keep away from the kerb. The childminder provides individual settling-in procedures for children in partnership with their parents. Children are introduced to the environment at their own pace, which enables them to settle happily. They quickly grow in confidence and develop the skills and independence they need to move on to the next stage in their development and on to full-time school. Children are developing their understanding of leading healthy lifestyles. They routinely wash their hands before eating the meals prepared by their parents. They regularly practise their physical skills both indoors and outside. However, there is scope to expand children's understanding of leading healthy lifestyles. For example, the childminder does not currently provide activities where children can learn to grow, tend and harvest their own fresh fruit and vegetables.

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

The childminder fully understands her individual responsibility to safeguard and protect children. The childminder regularly assesses and minimises any risks or hazards to children's safety. Children can explore freely and play safely. The childminder effectively evaluates and monitors her practice, by assessing children's progress and the effectiveness of the resources and activities she provides. Parent's comments are very complimentary. They praise her flexible and accommodating service, which enables the children of parents who work different shift patterns to receive continuity in their care. As a result, the childminder shows she has the motivation and commitment to continue to provide good levels of care and teaching for children.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY249313
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	870747
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	7
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	7 March 2011
Telephone number	

The childminder registered in 2003. She operates from her home in North Weald, Essex. The childminder operates from 8am until 6pm each week day, except for bank holidays and family holidays. She holds an appropriate qualification at level 3.

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