

Inspection date	30 January 2015
Previous inspection date	30 October 2009

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
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 form secure attachments with the childminder who organises a broad range of interesting and challenging activities for children. As a result, children's emotional well-being and overall development is well supported.
- The quality of teaching is good. Children are effectively supported in gaining skills in communication and language, and in their personal, social and emotional development. As a result, children are making good progress given their starting points.
- Rigorous safeguarding procedures are effective. This ensures children's welfare is protected and children are kept safe from harm.
- Children follow good hygiene routines. They enjoy healthy snacks and meals, which promotes their good health.
- The childminder demonstrates a strong commitment to promoting high-quality provision. The childminder regularly attends networking groups for advice and support. This has resulted in a positive impact on the learning experiences she offers for children as she explores ways to enhance her practice even further.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Sometimes children do not receive consistency of care and support because the systems for sharing information with other early years providers are not always highly effective.
- The childminder sometimes misses opportunities to share children's next steps with parents to enable them to continue learning at home, in particular following the progress check between the ages of two and three years.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- extend the sharing of important information with other early years providers so that all children receive consistency of care and support
- enhance the already good systems for sharing information with parents to ensure they are fully aware of their child's next steps following the progress check between the ages of two and three years so they are able to continue learning at home.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the rooms used for childminding.
- The inspector spoke with the childminder and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector checked evidence of the suitability and the qualifications of the childminder and other adults in the household.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents and carers from information included in the childminder's own survey.
- The inspector looked at children's records, planning documentation, and a range of other documentation, including policies and procedures.

Inspector

Emma McKeown

Inspection findings

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

The quality of teaching is good as the childminder ensures she provide children with a wide range of resources that promote their interest and enjoyment. Consequently, children are enthusiastic, motivated learners and make good progress in the childminder's care. For example, young children are fascinated as they discover how to create sounds and flashing lights as they play with a range of interactive toys. The childminder consistently speaks very clearly to support children's language development. She engages the children positively in conversations and asks questions, which provides opportunities for them to express themselves, to share their interests and extend their growing language and communication skills. As a result, children are making good progress in their communication and language skills. The childminder uses information from parents, and her observations, to assess children's stage of development and to plan for their continued learning. However, information shared with parents does not yet consistently include information about children's next steps, in particular following the progress check between the ages of two and three years. Consequently, parents are not always fully informed in how they can continue to support learning at home.

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

The childminder's home is safe and welcoming. Children form secure attachments with the childminder, who demonstrates an excellent knowledge of the children's interests and their routines. This supports children's well-being and has a positive impact on their learning. The childminder is fully aware of the importance of meeting children's individual needs, to make them feel safe, secure and confident to explore. Children learn to develop an awareness of health and safety through the daily routines, discussions and activities. For example, children are provided with healthy meals in line with their dietary requirements. Children benefit from regular trips to toddler groups to develop their social skills and confidence. Children's behaviour is good because the childminder frequently offers praise and calmly establishes expectations. Children develop positive attitudes to others and to learning that help them get ready for the move on to nursery or school.

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

The childminder has a secure knowledge of the learning and development requirements and how to keep children safe. Rigorous procedures ensure the safety of children is highly prioritised throughout the day. The childminder uses her assessment and planning processes, together with comments from parents, to effectively evaluate her provision. The systems for assessing children's learning effectively identify future learning needs. However, children do not receive consistency of care and support because the systems for sharing information with other early years providers are not always highly effective.

Setting details

Unique reference number	402993
Local authority	Northumberland
Inspection number	868987
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	4
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	30 October 2009
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 1993 and lives in Hexham, Northumberland. She operates all year round from 8am to 6pm, Wednesday to Friday, except bank holidays and family holidays.

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Piccadilly Gate
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