

Inspection date	2 February 2015
Previous inspection date	26 September 2008

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

- The childminder has a good understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage and the learning and development requirements. She observes children's play and effectively plans learning opportunities to secure their progress through effective teaching.
- Children build secure relationships with the childminder and her assistant, which helps them to feel emotionally secure. Frequent praise and encouragement successfully promotes their confidence and self-esteem.
- The children's individual needs are successfully met as the childminder understands the importance and value of working with parents. She communicates with them in a variety of ways, so that they are fully informed and involved in their child's learning.
- The childminder creates a safe and secure home, where children move around safely and independently.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Children are, on occasion, not provided with sufficient time to make decisions and be independent because the childminder is sometimes over eager to support them as they play.
- The childminder sometimes misses opportunities to support children's literacy skills further.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- consolidate children's independence by allowing them even more time to organise themselves, think through solutions and use their emergent skills and knowledge
- enhance opportunities for children's early literacy skills further by, for example, increasing the use of print in the environment for children to refer to as they play, in order to support children's learning and development.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities and interaction between the childminder, her assistant and children during their play indoors.
- The inspector spoke with the childminder and her assistant at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector looked at documents provided by the childminder, including progress records for the children.
- The inspector discussed safeguarding and self-evaluation with the childminder.

Inspector

Shirley Maynard

Inspection findings

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

The childminder has an effective knowledge and understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage. She plans activities that match closely to children's stages of development and are linked to their particular interests, such as a popular train set. Parents contribute to the assessment process well by completing All about me forms on entry to the setting. The childminder uses this information effectively to extend and enhance children's learning experiences. This means that they are well prepared for school. Parents receive regular feedback about their child's progress through daily discussions and written development diaries. As a result, parents are included in their child's learning and are kept well informed of their progress. The childminder provides plenty of opportunities for children to learn about different mathematical concepts during their play. For example, children confidently talk about different colours and shapes. There is also a range of books and resources to foster children's early literacy skills. However, these emerging reading skills are not always built on effectively because there are few opportunities for children to refer to signs and print in the environment as they play.

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

The childminder provides a warm, homely environment, which enables children to feel relaxed and emotionally secure. Her genuine enthusiasm for, and interest in, the children is evident. She engages children in meaningful conversations about their interests and events in their day. She listens carefully to them and responds sensitively to what they say. This helps children to feel valued and raises their self-esteem. The childminder and her assistant have clear expectations of children and is firm and gentle when reminding them how to play. As a result, children are well-behaved. However, on occasion, the childminder does not maximise children's independence because she does not give them sufficient time to experiment before suggesting a solution. For example, when playing a shape game, the childminder tells children the piece to use rather than allowing them to find it out themselves. Consequently, children's motivation to solve problems is not always optimised to extend their learning.

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

Children's safety is given good consideration as the childminder ensures her premises are kept secure. The childminder has an effective understanding of her role and responsibilities to meet the safeguarding and welfare requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. She is fully aware of the process to follow should she have any concerns about children in her care. Relevant policies are shared with parents upon entry. Her assistant only currently assists her on an occasional basis, and she is aware of her responsibility to oversee his work. She ensures that appropriate checks are carried out to verify his suitability. The childminder attends training to enrich her knowledge and this has improved the quality of teaching. Written feedback from parents describes how highly the parents appreciate the very good service that the childminder provides.

Setting details

Unique reference number	321330
Local authority	York
Inspection number	868687
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	1 - 7
Total number of places	8
Number of children on roll	8
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	26 September 2008
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 1998 and lives in a village on the outskirts of York. She operates all year round, from 7am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, except bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder is registered to work with an assistant and holds a relevant childcare qualification at level 3.

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