

Inspection date	4 February 2015
Previous inspection date	3 December 2009

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Outstanding	1
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Outstanding	1
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Outstanding	1
The setting meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- Children are motivated by an inspirational range of activities. This provides them with an excellent educational programme through which they become confident, curious learners and make exceptional developmental progress in relation to their starting points.
- The childminder and her assistant demonstrate excellent teaching skills. There is an outstanding focus on learning, both indoors and outdoors, and all children are respected and valued as individuals.
- Children's confidence and sense of well-being are strong; the childminder and her assistant form secure emotional attachments with them.
- Children are developing independent skills. They are able to make choices over their activities from the extensive range of books and toys easily available to them.
- The childminder promotes children's good health and their understanding of how to lead a healthy lifestyle extremely well. For example, she encourages children to consider the food that they are eating at snack time.
- The childminder demonstrates an excellent understanding of how to protect and safeguard children. She actively promotes children's safety and welfare through her rigorous implementation of meticulous policies and procedures.
- The childminder has a strong commitment for reflecting on her practice. She sets ambitious development targets taking into account the views of both parents and children.
- The childminder works exceptionally well with other professionals involved in children's care and learning, sharing information about children's progress and the activities that are available to them. As a result, children receive a consistent and continuous approach to their care and learning.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- extend the already good use of pictures and images to support children in making choices over their snacks.

Inspection activities

- The inspector viewed the areas of the premises and garden used for childminding.
- The inspector observed activities in the childminder's house and talked with the childminder and her assistant.
- The inspector talked with the children and carried out a joint observation with the childminder.
- The inspector looked at children's assessments records, evidence of the suitability of the childminder and her assistant, the childminder's self-evaluation and a range of other documentation, including the safeguarding procedures.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents taken from written comments and documentation obtained by the childminder.

Inspector

Ann Lee

Inspection findings

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

The childminder has an exceptional knowledge of the process by which children learn. She is tuned into their thinking and this, together with an extensive knowledge of their interests, enables her to ensure that they are developing the skills for future learning. Children's speaking and listening skills are superbly supported. The childminder and her assistant listen intently to what children say and carefully consider their own responses to make sure that children feel valued and respected. Children enjoy spending time attentively listening to stories. They are encouraged to develop their imagination by contributing their own ideas to the story. Children recall making footprints in the snow the previous day, as they create dinosaur prints in paint. The childminder skilfully observes the outstanding progress that all children make. She plans realistic and precise next steps that are shared with parents in order for learning to continue at home.

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

Children settle quickly into this calm, homely and child-centred environment. The childminder uses numerous pictorial images throughout her home; for example, children are able to easily identify their own coat pegs. The childminder is considering devising pictorial menu cards to increase children's ability to make choices. Children's behaviour is excellent. They understand and comply with the rules that the childminder has instigated, which primarily ensures children's safety. She uses a play-based approach to reinforcing children's awareness of their own safety. When a child brings a play mobile phone, a discussion takes place about the safe use of such information technology. Children are encouraged, through playful experiences, to take turns and share toys and books. They demonstrate a caring, compassionate attitude towards one another and develop good friendships. Children have the opportunity to interact with children on a larger scale as they regularly attend toddler groups. They enjoy walks, exploring the natural environment and learning about the local community and amenities.

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

The childminding provision is extremely efficiently organised. The childminder monitors the practice rigorously. This also ensures that her assistant remains highly competent in caring for children. The overall provision is extremely consistent for children due to this close, professional working partnership. Together, they demonstrate a commitment to continuous professional development, attending numerous courses, to ensure the needs of the children and their families are met. The partnership that the childminder establishes with parents is excellent. Parents express their very high levels of satisfaction with the care that the childminder provides and the progress that their children make.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY272331
Local authority	Northamptonshire
Inspection number	860822
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	12
Number of children on roll	11
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	3 December 2009
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 2003 and lives in Daventry, Northamptonshire. She works with her husband who is her assistant. She operates all year round from 7.45am to 6pm, Monday to Thursday, except bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder and her assistant both hold early years qualifications at level 3.

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