

Inspection date	9 February 2015
Previous inspection date	10 February 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

- The childminder has a good settling-in procedure. She visits children in their own homes so that they can get to know her in a familiar setting. This promotes children's well-being and confidence.
- The childminder joins in with children's play to develop their language skills and ideas. For example, when children are playing in the home corner, she extends their play by asking them to make her some breakfast. This encourages children to talk about what they are doing and to use their imaginations as they make pretend meals and cups of tea.
- The childminder teaches children about colour, numbers and letters through play and everyday situations. This is a good preparation for future learning at nursery and school.
- Good relationships with parents and strong links with other settings mean that there is a shared approach to children's learning and ensures they receive consistent support. For example, the childminder finds out what the children who also attend pre-school have been doing each day and shares this information with parents.
- The childminder demonstrates a secure understanding of how to safeguard children in her home. She implements a range of policies and procedures with regard to safeguarding and promoting children's well-being. As a result, children's safety is effectively promoted at all times.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The childminder does not gather fully comprehensive information from parents about what children already know and can do when they first join the setting. This means that she does not have all relevant information needed to form a precise assessment of children's starting points.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen arrangements for gathering information from parents about what children already know and can do when they join the setting, to determine clear starting points from which to plan for their future learning.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the childminder's home and discussed them with the childminder.
- The inspector spoke to the childminder and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents as provided through written questionnaires and feedback.
- The inspector looked at children's records, planning documentation, and a range of other documentation, including policies and procedures.

Inspector

Anne Bell

Inspection findings

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

The childminder gathers some information about each child's interests and routines when they first start. However, this does not consistently include information about children's learning and development, so that activities can be even more closely matched to children's needs from the very start. Once the children have started attending, the childminder keeps detailed records of their achievements. This means that she knows children's stages of development extremely well and plans effectively for their next steps in learning. This information is shared regularly with parents, so that they can further support children's learning at home. As a result, children achieve in line with age-related expectations and make good progress towards the early learning goals.

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

Children are happy and confident in the childminder's presence. They demonstrate secure emotional bonds with her by including her in their play and approaching her for cuddles and affection. The childminder talks to children about keeping themselves safe. For example, when children talk about seeing ducks skating on an icy surface at the weekend, the childminder takes the opportunity to explain how to keep safe by keeping away from frozen lakes. The childminder encourages children's independence at every opportunity. For example, children tidy away their toys before moving on to new activities, use the toilet and washing facilities by themselves and feed themselves independently. The childminder explains clearly and calmly to children how their actions can have an impact on others, and consistently encourages them to demonstrate respect and care for one another and for their environment. As a result, behaviour is good and children play contentedly together.

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

The childminder monitors each child's progress and tracks their development, so that she can identify their strengths and any areas for development. She is committed to improving her practice and attends regular training to update and refresh her knowledge and skills. She has effectively addressed the recommendation from her previous inspection and carries out detailed self-evaluation to support her ongoing improvements. She networks with other childminders to share ideas and examples of good practice. The childminder takes the children to group activities where they have the opportunity to play with a larger group of children. Feedback from parents is extremely positive, complimenting the childminder on her good communication with them and on the good progress their children are making.

Setting details

Unique reference number	259630
Local authority	Cambridgeshire
Inspection number	867149
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	10 February 2009
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 2001, and lives in Great Cambourne, near Cambridge. She operates all year round, from 7.30am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays.

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