

Inspection date	11 February 2015
Previous inspection date	27 January 2012

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

- The childminder uses her sound knowledge and understanding of the learning and development requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage, and how children learn and develop, to plan interesting activities that support children's learning.
- Children are developing secure, warm relationships with the childminder, which helps them to develop as independent learners.
- The childminder builds positive relationships with parents, which supports children's learning at home and ensures continuity of care.
- The childminder demonstrates a good understanding of safeguarding and is aware of her role and responsibilities in promoting children's welfare should she have any child protection concerns.
- The childminder is committed to developing her provision through the use of effective self-evaluation systems. She regularly attends appropriate training and uses the views of parents to bring about positive changes that benefit the children.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The childminder has not fully explored opportunities to enhance the indoor and outdoor environments, in order to build on children's curiosity about the natural world.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance the indoor and outdoor environments by creating more opportunities for children to investigate and learn about the natural world.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed play, teaching and learning opportunities indoors and at snack time.
- The inspector spoke to the childminder and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the childminder.
- The inspector looked at documentation and a selection of policies and procedures, including children's records, risk assessments, certificates and evidence of the childminder's suitability and other adults living on the premises.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents through written and verbal feedback.

Inspector

Susan Hopper

Inspection findings

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

The childminder provides a range of age appropriate toys and activities which are freely accessible to the children. The indoor environment is bright and welcoming and the children enjoy playing with trains, cars and a toy garage, dolls and soft balls. The childminder maintains a running narrative with the children modelling how to use words correctly, asking questions and responding to their comments. Children are excited to make Valentine cards and enjoy applying glue and coloured shapes to the card and removing and replacing the shapes several times. The childminder encourages the children to practice their writing skills in the cards and develop their problem-solving skills by asking them where to place the shapes. However, there are fewer opportunities for children to use natural resources and develop their understanding of the natural world. For example, by engaging in play with sand and water, or by investigating how plants and mini-beasts grow and develop. This is because the childminder has not fully developed the indoor and outdoor environments yet. The childminder ensures that learning is supported at home by regularly exchanging and sharing information about children's progress and development with parents.

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

The childminder ensures that all children are safe and secure by completing regular risk assessments for the home, the garden and outings. She is a good role model, responding positively to the children and praising their efforts. As a result, children are happy, self-motivated and settled in her care. They understand her expectations for behaviour and play together cooperatively. The childminder encourages the children to be healthy and develop their self-care skills by washing their own hands and feeding themselves at snack and meal times. Children's social skills and confidence are developed through visits to playgroups. The childminder takes the children on visits to the local park and places of interest to help them to develop their understanding of the wider community and promote their physical well-being.

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

The childminder has a secure understanding of the safeguarding and welfare requirements and she knows what to do if she has a concern about a child in her care. Self-evaluation procedures are used by the childminder to identify the strengths and weaknesses of her setting. She involves parents in her evaluation through discussion and through the use of regular questionnaires. The childminder has developed effective partnerships with parents, and other settings that the children attend, to promote continuity of care and learning for the children. Effective procedures for assessing and tracking children's progress in all areas of learning are used to ensure that children's individual needs are well met and that they are prepared for the next stage of their learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY408351
Local authority	Knowsley
Inspection number	987580
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	1
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	27 January 2012
Telephone number	

The childminder registered in 2010. She lives in Liverpool. The childminder operates all year round, from 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday, except bank holidays and family holidays.

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