

Inspection date	17 February 2015
Previous inspection date	11 March 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 make good progress in their learning and are prepared for their eventual move to school because the childminder provides them with a broad range of well-planned activities.
- The childminder interacts well with children and inspires positive attitudes towards learning. She often describes what she is doing and asks children lots of questions during their play. As a result, children are confident to share their views and they talk about what they are doing with an increasingly wide vocabulary.
- Children have daily opportunities for fresh air, outdoor play and exercise. They attend various groups, go for walks in the local environment and frequently visit local parks.
- The childminder organises her home well, to provide a warm and safe place for children to play and explore.
- The childminder builds strong and friendly relationships with parents, and regularly exchanges information with them. This means that children's individual needs are fully understood, which benefits their ongoing care, learning and development.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- When playing outside, children are not provided with a wide enough range of resources to support and extend their play.
- At times, younger children lose interest in adult-led activities because the activities take too long.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- build on children's strong sense of exploration by extending the range of resources readily available to them while they are playing outdoors
- maximise children's good progress when planning adult-led activities by considering further children's individual concentration levels.

Inspection activities

- The inspector viewed all areas of the childminder's home used for childminding.
- The inspector observed teaching and learning activities in the indoor and outdoor learning environment.
- The inspector looked at a sample of policies, children's assessment records and planning documentation.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the childminder.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents and children recorded on questionnaires provided by the childminder.

Inspector

Tina Smith

Inspection findings

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

Children make good progress because the childminder plans varied play activities around the children's interests, which cover all areas of learning. The childminder provides children with a good balance of child-initiated and adult-directed play. However, at times, learning led by the childminder is prolonged and younger children lose interest. For example, during a fruit tasting activity, the childminder continues with the activity even though younger children become restless and disengaged. Children are very confident speakers and readily talk about things that interest them. They express their creativity as they construct scarecrows from malleable materials and excitedly use their feet to make prints with paint. Children use their imagination as they make 'rabbit pie' for dinner. The childminder often joins in with their play and models language, which effectively promotes children's communication and language skills. She supports their interest in cooking by helping them to make pancakes, which they thoroughly enjoy eating. Children love to play outdoors. For instance, they have great fun as they pretend to have a picnic. They show a strong sense of exploration and curiosity. However, a wide range of resources to promote children's development across all areas of learning is not always available outside. Therefore, children's play is not fully extended in this environment.

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

The childminder's home is safe and welcoming. She is kind, caring and offers lots of cuddles and praise. The childminder encourages healthy eating and supports parents to provide healthy meals and snacks. Children behave well because the childminder makes sure children understand the rules and behaviour expectations. Children benefit from regular trips to toddler groups to develop their social skills and confidence. Children learn how to keep themselves safe because the childminder teaches them about road safety on their regular trips out. The childminder understands the importance of preparing children for school and future life. She encourages children to be independent, for example, to put on their shoes and coats in readiness for outdoor play.

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. She carries out daily checks to ensure the environment is safe and secure, as well as regularly reviewing written risk assessments. The childminder is keen to continue with her professional development and updates her skills and knowledge by attending training. She regularly attends a local childminding forum where she receives guidance on best practice. The childminder is committed to promoting good-quality provision for children and their parents. She keeps parents well informed about their child's progress and seeks their views on her provision. Systems for evaluating what is working and what needs to improve are developing well. This ensures children access a setting that continues to go from strength to strength.

Setting details

Unique reference number	223455
Local authority	Herefordshire
Inspection number	866087
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	11 March 2009
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 1992 and lives in the city of Hereford. The childminder operates all year round from 8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, except bank holidays and family holidays.

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