

Inspection date	12 February 2015
Previous inspection date	23 July 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 understanding of the seven areas of learning. She knows how to support children's next steps in learning, ensuring that they make good progress.
- The childminder effectively provides interesting and challenging experiences. She supports children's interests and their knowledge and understanding of mathematics.
- The childminder has developed links with other providers where the care of children is shared, by exchanging details about children's learning. As a result, children receive consistency in their learning.
- The childminder has developed a close relationship with children in her care. As a result, children are happy, confident and secure in her home.
- The childminder demonstrates a positive and genuine attitude towards reflecting on and developing her practice and training. This helps to support improvements in the setting and further enhances opportunities for children.
- The childminder effectively monitors the quality of the teaching and learning, ensuring that each child is making good progress.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The effective systems for working in partnership with parents could be further improved, by providing them with more information about how to support their child's learning at home.
- The childminder does not always ensure that children understand, and carry out, self-care routines.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen existing good partnerships with parents by providing them with more information about how they can support their children's learning at home
- enhance children's understanding of care routines, for example, ensuring that they consistently wash their hands before eating.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the playroom.
- The inspector spoke to the childminder at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the childminder.
- The inspector looked through children's assessment records and reviewed a selection of records, policies and procedures.
- The inspector checked evidence of suitability of the childminder, her assistants and adult members of the household. The inspector also checked evidence of the training carried out by the childminder and her assistants.

Inspector

Hayley Ruane

Inspection findings

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

The childminder demonstrates a secure understanding of how children learn and develop through play. She provides a well-organised and well-resourced environment to meet children's varying interests. As a result, the children's interests and needs are met. Children go on walks to the local school and go on nature walks to collect leaves to make pictures. As a result, they gain an awareness of their local environment. Resources are used well to support learning across all areas. For example, children use their imaginations and recognise numbers and letters written on toy train carriages when pushing them along the track. This provides them with a good range of skills in readiness for school. Parents are kept informed about their children's progress and are encouraged to add to their children's learning journals. The childminder undertakes an overview of children's development in the seven areas of learning every month. However, opportunities to use this information to help guide parents in how to better support their children's learning at home are sometimes missed.

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

The childminder provides a warm and welcoming environment, where children feel emotionally secure. She responds well to children's emotional needs. The childminder recognises when they need reassurance and comfort, or when to intervene when children disagree with each other. Most toys are stored in low-level drawer units. This enables children to help themselves to what they want to play with, developing their independence. Children access the toilet independently and wash their hands. However, the childminder does not always support children's understanding about why they need to wash their hands before having something to eat. Children enjoy a range of healthy snacks provided by the childminder, and she gives guidance to parents about what is appropriate for children's packed lunches. Children benefit from plenty of fresh air and exercise. They go on many walks and visit the park on a regular basis. As a result, children learn about a healthy lifestyle and keeping physically active.

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

The childminder and her assistants have a secure knowledge and understanding of safeguarding. They are aware of the potential indicators of abuse and neglect and are clear about the required procedure to follow, should they have concerns regarding a child in their care. The childminder monitors the work of her assistants. She gives them guidance and support by providing training opportunities to develop their understanding of safety practices. She reflects on the service that she offers. Consequently, she is aware of her strengths and priorities for improvement. The childminder is committed to her own professional development and is studying for a recognised childcare qualification, to improve her childcare skills and knowledge. The childminder has good partnerships with parents. They comment that their children benefit from the structured activities that are provided, as well as the resources that are available during free play.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY330313
Local authority	Lincolnshire
Inspection number	862444
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	17
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	23 July 2009
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 2006 and lives in Lincoln. She operates all year round, from 7am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder works with two assistants. The childminder receives funding for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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Piccadilly Gate
Store St
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M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 4234
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