

Inspection date	23 February 2015
Previous inspection date	1 March 2011

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

- Children are happy, settled and emotionally secure with the childminder. They have built close bonds with her and each other and as a result, they enjoy their time with her.
- The childminder encourages children's learning by skilfully responding to comments and questions. She uses effective questioning techniques to encourage children's communication development and gives them time to think about their answers.
- The childminder has developed her outside area to provide a good variety of enjoyable activities for children. These activities help to foster children's curiosity as they play and the childminder supports them with ideas and suggestions.
- The childminder reviews her provision in a variety of ways and has developed effective methods to observe and monitor children's progress. This means she can identify any areas where children need additional support.
- The childminder uses the local environment well to extend children's learning in a range of ways, including their awareness of nature and the wider community.
- The childminder has a good understanding of the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage and demonstrates this effectively in her practice.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Young children cannot always make independent choices about messy play activities as resources are not always easily accessible to them.
- The childminder has not fully established methods of sharing ideas for the next steps in children's learning with parents to provide an even greater continuity of care.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- develop methods for young children to make choices about messy play activities when resources are not accessible
- strengthen the good partnerships with parents by sharing ideas for next steps in children's learning.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children as they played and took part in daily routines.
- The inspector accompanied the childminder as she collected children from a local nursery.
- The inspector spoke with the childminder at appropriate times during the inspection and took account of the views of parents by reviewing letters and questionnaires.
- The inspector reviewed the areas used for childminding.
- The inspector reviewed documentation, including children's development files and evidence of suitability.

Inspector

Lesley Hodges

Inspection findings

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

Children are making good progress because the childminder understands how they learn. She makes precise observations and uses the information to plan challenging activities. The childminder monitors children's development accurately and this enables her to provide clear progress reports for parents. Children choose from a wide range of good quality resources. Most resources are within easy reach for children. However, there are fewer opportunities for younger children to choose messy play activities as they cannot always see the available resources. The childminder uses every opportunity to extend children's learning while out walking. Children enjoy spotting different shapes and looking at plants and trees. They identify numbers and talk about the effects of the wind. The childminder adapts these activities so that all children are involved. Older children identify two-digit numbers, using their developing concentration skills to think about their answers.

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

Children feel safe and secure with the childminder. She provides a very positive environment and children enjoy their time with her. Daily routines flow well because the childminder gently prepares children for what is coming next. This approach gives children plenty of time to finish their play and tidy up their toys before they walk to nursery. As a result of this relaxed and positive atmosphere, children's behaviour is good. The childminder encourages children to complete small tasks. In preparation for school, children are learning self-care skills, including hanging their coats up and washing their hands before they eat. The childminder provides healthy snacks and meals. Children enjoy daily activities in the newly developed outside area, which supports those children who prefer to learn outside.

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

The childminder gives a high priority to children's safety. She completes daily risk assessments and reviews her home regularly to ensure hazards are minimised. Children learn about keeping themselves safe in an emergency and the childminder teaches them how to cross the road safely. The childminder has a secure understanding of safeguarding procedures. She updates her knowledge by attending courses and ensures that she has up-to-date contact information for the relevant authorities if she needs to make a referral for a child in her care. The childminder updates parents about children's activities and care routines with daily diaries and informal chats. However, she does not provide opportunities for parents to discuss the next steps for their children's learning. The childminder has successfully addressed the issues raised at the last inspection. She has improved her self-evaluation techniques and parents complete questionnaires with very positive comments. The childminder's capacity for continuous improvement is good.

Setting details

Unique reference number	159547
Local authority	Havering
Inspection number	843231
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	2
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	1 March 2011
Telephone number	

The childminder registered in 2001. She lives in Harold Hill, in the London Borough of Havering. The childminder operates all-year round except family and bank holidays.

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