

Inspection date	17 February 2015
Previous inspection date	1 December 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		Outstanding	1
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 enjoy a wide range of activities that have breadth and depth across the seven areas of learning. This helps them to make good progress in their learning and development.
- The childminder has a good understanding of her responsibilities to safeguard children. Consequently, children are protected and cared for in a safe and well-maintained environment that promotes their welfare, safety and well-being.
- Children are extremely happy and they form exceptionally strong relationships with the childminder. They develop confidence as their emotional needs are extremely well supported. Children demonstrate a very strong sense of belonging at the provision.
- The childminder works in close partnership with parents, which promotes consistency and continuity in children's care and learning.
- The childminder demonstrates a strong commitment to promoting high-quality provision. She attends regular training, which has had a positive impact on the learning experiences she offers children.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Assessments are not as sharply focussed to enable the childminder to plan precisely for children's next steps in learning.
- There is capacity to strengthen partnership working with other early years providers who share the care of minded children, to share more in-depth information about children's learning and support continuity.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- plan more precisely for children's next steps by sharply focussing assessments, in order to enrich children's learning, so they make rapid progress
- gather more in-depth information from providers when children attend other early years settings, to enhance the planning of complementary learning experiences.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the play room and outdoor play area.
- The inspector spoke to the childminder and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector undertook a joint observation with the childminder.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents through the childminder's own parents survey and talking to parents and carers on the day of the inspection.
- The inspector looked at children's records, planning documentation and a range of other documentation, including policies and procedures.

Inspector

Jean Thomas

Inspection findings

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

The childminder knows that children learn best through play. The thoughtfully planned playroom and outdoor play area offers children good opportunities to easily access play materials. Children demonstrate that they are confident learners and determine the direction of their play. They enjoy making models from play dough. The children persevere in practising their skills and use a variety of utensils to shape the dough to their design. Children demonstrate great curiosity as they explore the world around them. In the outdoor area, they dig in the soil and are eager to share their discoveries of worms and insects with the childminder. Teaching is good. The childminder uses a range of teaching strategies, including open-ended questions, to extend children's learning. She has undertaken 'Every Child a Talker' training and implements the guidance in her teaching practice to support children's communication and language development. Regular observation and assessment of children's development is undertaken and shared with parents to ensure that they are fully involved in their child's ongoing learning and development. The childminder consistently monitors children's progress. However, the childminder does not always sharply focus her assessments of children's learning. This means she does not always precisely plan for their next steps in learning, so that children make rapid progress.

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

Children thrive in the welcoming, homely and relaxed environment. Their emotional well-being is exceptionally well supported. The childminder is calm, caring and sensitive in supporting their individual needs. She is an exemplary role model for children's behaviour. The strong focus on developing children's social skills results in them playing together cooperatively as they develop friendships. Children have excellent opportunities to learn about healthy lifestyles. They benefit from a nutritionally balanced diet. The food is freshly prepared by the childminder. Children learn to manage their own personal needs exceptionally well. For example, they independently dress before playing outside and wash their hands at appropriate times without prompt from the childminder. They are rapidly developing the self-help skills and attitudes that they need for their next stage in learning.

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 safeguard children. She regularly reflects on her practice and feedback from children and parents to help identify areas for improvement. The childminder is very experienced. She has a good understanding of child development and how to put in place strategies to support children's good progress. She values building partnerships with other settings that children attend. However, these are not fully developed to exchange in-depth information to promote continuity in children's learning further.

Setting details

Unique reference number	322153
Local authority	Liverpool
Inspection number	868756
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	4
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	1 December 2009
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 2000 and lives in Wavertree, Liverpool. She operates all year round, from 8am to 5.30pm, Monday to Friday, except for holidays.

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