

Inspection date

25 February 2015

Previous inspection date

30 September 2008

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 is well qualified. She uses her knowledge well to plan interesting and challenging activities to support children's learning, based on their interests and stage of development.
- Strong partnerships are in place with parents. They contribute to the childminder's on-entry assessments, sharing information about their child's learning and development at home. This ensures children's good progress is promoted from the outset and their individual learning needs are successfully met.
- The childminder is committed to enhancing her professional development. She uses knowledge acquired from training well, to improve her practice and to support children's achievements.
- The childminder works well with other childminders in her local area. They plan shared activities that promote children's learning and extend their knowledge of the wider world.
- The childminder and other household members place high priority on keeping children safe. They ensure doors are locked at all times when children are present.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Occasionally, the childminder asks too many questions. She does not always give children enough time to talk and share their own thoughts, when they look at and share story books together.
- There are times when the childminder does not always support children's creativity and enable them to follow their ideas, in order to direct their own learning.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- extend strategies to support children's communication skills even further, for example, by using more effective questioning techniques and giving children more time to talk when sharing stories
- extend activities so that children are able to follow their own interests and ideas in order to support their creativity.

Inspection activities

- The inspector viewed all parts of the childminder's home used for childminding.
- The inspector observed play and learning activities and spoke to the childminder and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the childminder.
- The inspector viewed regulatory documentation, including evidence of suitability checks, children's details, learning journals and a sample of policies and procedures.
- The inspector discussed self-evaluation and how this is organised to drive improvements that benefit the children.

Inspector

Nicola Jones

Inspection findings

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

The childminder's teaching is consistently good. She supports children's early number skills particularly well through everyday play-based activities. As a result, children make good progress in their learning and are well prepared with the skills they require for school. The childminder provides picture books and uses props, such as soft toys when reading stories. This helps children to develop an interest in reading. However, occasionally, opportunities for children to extend their already good communication skills even further are not always maximised. For example, the childminder asks too many questions and does not always give children enough time to share their own thoughts, when they look at and share story books together. The childminder plans activities and provides a good range of resources based upon children's interests. However, there are times when the childminder does not maximise opportunities for children to be creative and follow their own ideas during play. For example, the childminder makes her own suggestions about what children could make, when they explore and manipulate dough.

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

Children develop strong, positive relationships with the childminder. They are happy and settled and enjoy the time they spend in her home. High levels of care and supervision are provided. As a result, children develop confidence and actively explore the wide range of activities available. They demonstrate high levels of motivation and maintain focus on things that interest them over extended periods of time. Good quality information is gathered from parents when children first start attending. This ensures continuity in children's physical and emotional needs. Children behave very well in the childminder's home. This is because she has clear procedures for responding to changes in their behaviour. This is shared with parents to maintain a joint approach. Children's independence skills are fostered well. They actively seek their own resources and are supported to develop an understanding of the importance of hand washing.

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

The childminder has a good understanding of the learning and development requirements. She maintains a good overview of the educational programmes she provides; regularly reviewing and amending her provision to ensure all areas of learning are covered. Children's assessments are monitored well. This helps the childminder to identify where correct intervention may be required, to meet children's individual needs. Clear safeguarding procedures are in place. The childminder has a good understanding of the signs and symptoms of potential abuse and knows how to act if she is concerned about a child. Partnerships with local schools are strong. Good information sharing means children's individual needs are well met. The childminder demonstrates a strong drive to improve her provision. She identifies, through consultation with parents and children, areas for improvement. This has a positive impact on children's achievements.

Setting details

Unique reference number	305893
Local authority	Stockton on Tees
Inspection number	876765
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	12
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	30 September 2008
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 1992 and lives in Yarm. She operates all year round, from 7.30am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder holds an appropriate early years qualification at level 3.

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