

Inspection date	3 March 2015
Previous inspection date	8 October 2009

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

- Teaching and learning are effective because the childminder has a secure understanding of how children learn and provides a good range of well-planned activities, which supports all children to make good progress.
- The childminder promotes good hygiene routines and children enjoy healthy snacks and freshly-cooked meals, which promotes their good health.
- The childminder understands her role and responsibility with regard to safeguarding children and this ensures children's safety is robustly maintained.
- Children enjoy their time with the childminder. They play in a homely and welcoming environment. Toys are of good quality and easily accessible for children to self-select.
- Strong partnership working with parents and other early years professionals enables the childminder to efficiently support children's individual needs.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The outdoor learning environment does not consistently provide the same quality resources and learning opportunities as the indoor environment.
- Babies and younger children have fewer opportunities to play with natural and open-ended resources to encourage them to explore in different ways.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- focus more precisely on the planning of activities outdoors to enrich learning opportunities in all areas of the educational programme
- provide young children with more opportunities to discover and explore using natural materials.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the indoor learning environment where children play, and viewed all areas of the home used for childminding purposes.
- The inspector held discussions with the childminder and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector looked at information to confirm the suitability of all adults living on the premises.
- The inspector looked at a range of records and documentation, including the children's development records.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents' written comments, obtained by the childminder in preparation of an inspection.

Inspector

Lynn A Hartigan

Inspection findings

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

The childminder provides children with an exciting range of activities indoors that promotes their learning in all areas. The childminder uses her good observational skills to follow children's development. Parents are positively encouraged to play an active role in their child's learning. Accurate information about children's abilities and starting points means the childminder can effectively plan to support them. Children enjoy painting and concentrate as they mix paint to create new colours. They chat freely with the childminder as they discuss the colours they make and the colours of the rainbow. Creativity is further supported as they sing and dance to favourite songs. They giggle with excitement as the childminder joins in. They delight in making a picnic for her using the role-play props. The childminder is skilful in the questions she asks and encourages children to think critically, and allows time for them to respond. However, there are fewer opportunities to consistently support children in each area of learning in the garden, as the childminder is yet to develop this aspect of the provision to reflect the quality of the indoor provision. A wide variety of good-quality toys are easily accessible and children are able to initiate their own games. However, younger children have fewer opportunities to explore and discover for themselves, using natural play materials. The childminder encourages children's independence as they learn to dress themselves and take care of their personal needs, which helps prepare them for their next stages of learning.

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

Children play in a safe and welcoming environment. They enjoy their time with the childminder and enjoy cuddles when they are tired. The childminder is calm and reassuring. The childminder has high expectations for children in her care. They know what is expected, how to behave and receive consistent praise. This means they feel secure and behaviour is good. The childminder promotes children's understanding of being safe and healthy through daily routines. Nutritious snacks are provided and children access fresh air in the garden and at the park. Children's emotional development is supported well. They gain confidence as they attend community groups and make new friends. Activities and resources are provided to enable children to talk about differences and similarities. Children develop positive attitudes to others and this helps them get ready to move on to nursery or school.

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

The childminder is committed to training and providing a good-quality provision for children and their parents. The childminder is reflective and seeks the views of parents and children to make further improvements. The childminder effectively monitors how well children are learning and parents are positively encouraged to contribute their comments. They speak very highly of the care and education that is offered to their children. The childminder has been pro-active in securing positive partnerships with other settings children attend to ensure continuity between home, the childminder's care and at school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY363448
Local authority	Southend on Sea
Inspection number	878487
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	6
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	8 October 2009
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 2007. She operates all year round from 8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, except for family holidays. The childminder provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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