

Inspection date	10 March 2015
Previous inspection date	22 July 2010

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Satisfactory	3
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Outstanding	1
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		Outstanding	1
The setting meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- The childminder makes excellent use of her regular observations to gain a comprehensive knowledge of children. This enables her to plan exciting first-hand experiences that promote children's individual next stages of development very well. Consequently, children remain highly motivated and make rapid progress in their learning. This prepares them extremely well for school.
- The childminder provides a child-centred environment where children become highly independent. The extremely effective use of pictures and labels mean children can find their shoes and coats from the cupboard and find their crockery to set the table.
- The childminder and her assistant are caring, calm and gentle with the children. As a result, children's behaviour is exemplary. They develop outstanding self-esteem and an excellent sense of belonging, which promotes their confidence and emotional well-being extremely well. Babies have very strong attachments and the childminder meets their physical needs exceptionally well.
- The childminder and her assistant continually look for ways to improve so that they can enhance outcomes for children. They have made significant improvements since their last inspection and want to provide the highest quality care and learning for children. One way they have done this is by the assistant gaining a qualification in early years to extend his knowledge of child development.
- The childminder has exceptionally strong partnerships with parents. She exchanges extensive information with them and sends home resources so they can support children's learning. This has a very positive impact on children's development.
- The childminder and her assistant provide highly effective support for children's language and communication skills. This includes using sign language with words and visual aids to provide context so that children understand the meaning.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- encourage older children to look closer at similarities and differences in the resources and items they use during planned activities to enhance their learning further.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities and the quality of teaching indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector held discussions with the childminder and her assistant.
- The inspector took account of the written feedback left by parents for the inspection and the childminder's self-evaluation.
- The inspector checked safeguarding information and the premises.
- The inspector sampled documentation, including policies and procedures, children's development records and information for parents.

Inspector

Elaine Douglas

Inspection findings

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

The childminder and her assistant plan their environment and activities exceptionally well to ensure all children remain challenged and fully engaged in their learning. They pose challenging questions so that children think of solutions to problems and learn about cause and effect. During adult-led activities, they demonstrate how to use equipment and children spend time practising their new skills. They give children excellent time to use resources in their own way, which enables them to extend their ideas and find out what they want to know. For example, children turned containers over and listened to the sounds as they used dry spaghetti as drumsticks. Others predicted and found out which size sand timer would run out of sand first and babies used their senses to explore jelly. Children have some opportunities to learn about similarities and differences, such as between dried and cooked pasta, although the childminder does not extend this further. The childminder makes excellent use of daily routines to extend children's learning. For example, older children found the correct number of plates and cups for everyone at snack. They cut their fruit with a safety knife, poured drinks and spread jam on rice cakes.

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

Children thoroughly enjoy their time with the childminder and her assistant. They happily part from their parents and eagerly initiate their learning by choosing from the extensive range of resources. Children choose where to play and are extremely confident in the childminder's home. Children develop an excellent awareness of keeping safe and healthy, for example blowing their nose, disposing of the tissue and using hand sanitizer. Through thorough communication with parents, the childminder is highly skilled at understanding children's routines and meeting their care and learning needs exceptionally well.

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

The childminder and her assistant give children's health and safety the highest priority. They attend training and keep up to date with current legislation and procedures. This means they have an excellent awareness of what to do should a child be at risk. The childminder monitors children's progress efficiently. She is able to identify any gaps in children's learning and seek additional support. She works closely with parents and outside agencies so that children with special educational needs and/or disabilities reach their full potential. The childminder works extremely well with her assistant to evaluate their provision and their personal professional development. They review any training they attend and implement new ideas to enhance children's care and learning. For example, they have looked at supporting early writing skills further by providing diaries in role-play and chalk boards in the garden.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY306532
Local authority	North Somerset
Inspection number	843805
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	12
Number of children on roll	11
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	22 July 2010
Telephone number	

The childminder registered in 2005. She lives in Weston Village, Weston-super-Mare, Somerset. The childminder's husband works as her assistant. The childminder and her assistant both have early years qualifications at level 3. She receives funding to provide free early education to children aged two, three and four years.

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