

Inspection date	11 March 2015
Previous inspection date	3 July 2012

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		Outstanding	1
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 provides excellent opportunities to extend children's language and communication skills. As a result, children share their interests with the childminder and express their needs very well.
- The childminder and her co-childminder work in partnership together exceptionally well to monitor children's progress and identify next steps or gaps in learning, closing them promptly.
- The childminder uses highly successful strategies to engage all parents in their children's learning. This helps to provide excellent continuity in their learning and development.
- The childminder promotes children's healthy lifestyles well. For example, she offers them fresh fruits for their snack times.
- The childminder has a strong drive to provide a quality service. She uses views from parents and children to evaluate her service and make plans for future improvements.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The childminder does not always maximise children's opportunities to be fully independent, for example, as she does not always encourage them to serve their own snacks and meals.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance children's independence and self-help skills further by encouraging them to serve their own snack and meals.

Inspection activities

- The inspector conducted a tour of the premises during the inspection.
- The inspector had a discussion with children, the childminder and her co-childminder.
- The inspector observed children during activities indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector gathered the views from parents through discussions during the inspection and through written feedback.
- The inspector looked at a range of relevant documentation relating to safeguarding, policies and procedures, and learning and development.

Inspector

Helen Porter

Inspection findings

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

The childminder has an excellent understanding of how children learn. She works extremely closely with her co-childminder to provide an exceptionally good educational programme. Children confidently make choices about their play. This is because the childminder provides an extremely well-resourced environment. As a result, children make excellent progress in all areas of learning. The childminder seamlessly incorporates learning into children's play, which enables them to develop skills they will need for their future learning. She teaches younger children how to safely use steps outside to extend their movement and coordination skills. The childminder consistently helps children to build their vocabulary and language skills. She encourages them to say new words, such as 'seeds' and 'flowers', as they take part in planting activities outside. She asks them skilful questions to encourage them to share their own ideas. The childminder's extremely strong partnership with parents helps her to develop precise and consistent plans that support her clearly identified next steps in learning for children.

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

The childminder and her co-childminder work well together to help to ensure they meet all children's needs. She recognises when children are tired, and prepares their bottle in advance to help them quickly settle before their sleep. The childminder promotes children's good manners, and acts as a good role model as she praises good behaviour. This helps children to learn what is expected of them and, as a result, they behave well. The childminder encourages children to wash their own hands to promote good hygiene practices. However, sometimes she does things for the children that they could do themselves, such as serving their snacks and meals for them, so their self-care skills are not always consistently extended. The childminder walks to local schools with children and takes them to local parks. This helps them to challenge their physical skills, and enjoy fresh air and exercise regularly. The childminder builds good relationships with other provisions, such as nurseries. This helps her to exchange information about children's progress to ensure continuity of learning and care.

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

The childminder has a strong understanding of the learning and development, and safeguarding and welfare requirements. Her thorough assessment of risks helps her to minimise hazards and keep children safe. The childminder attends training to further her knowledge and skills, and uses these to enhance outcomes for children. She uses questionnaires for children and parents effectively to seek their views and suggestions for strengths and areas to improve her service.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY440789
Local authority	Oxfordshire
Inspection number	824543
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	6
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	3 July 2012
Telephone number	

The childminder registered in 2012 and lives in Thame, in Oxfordshire. She works with another childminder each weekday, all year round. She has a level 4 early years qualification.

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