

Inspection date	16 March 2015
Previous inspection date	23 September 2008

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		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

- Children are safe because the childminder checks her home and resources daily to ensure they are suitable for children to use.
- Children feel safe and secure due to the strong bonds they develop with the childminder. They play with confidence.
- The childminder helps children develop the skills they need for the move to school. This includes encouraging their independence and preparing them for school mealtime routines.
- The childminder has a clear understanding of each child's development and the good progress they are making. She identifies how to move them forward in their learning and incorporates parents' views so they can work together to promote progression.
- Children are eager to succeed because the childminder consistently celebrates and values their achievements, which boosts their confidence and self-esteem.
- The childminder demonstrates a strong understanding of safeguarding procedures, which is evident from her detailed and precise policies. She knows what to do and who to contact if she has concerns about a child in her care.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Although the childminder provides planned activities, children do not always have opportunities to extend their curiosity independently. For example, in order to develop their own ideas and explore different ways of using resources and natural materials.
- Children do not always have opportunities to practise their early writing skills as part of their play. This is because paper and pencils are not always nearby for them to use.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- provide more opportunities for children to experiment with different resources and natural materials, to develop and test out their own ideas
- extend children's early writing skills with more opportunities for them to use writing in their play.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities indoors and provision for outdoor play.
- The inspector talked with the childminder and children at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector looked at children's assessment records and the planning documentation.
- The inspector checked evidence of the childminder's qualifications and her suitability.

Inspector

Kerry Lynn

Inspection findings

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

The childminder makes good use of local facilities to broaden children's experiences and learning. Children develop their physical skills as they participate in dance and music classes, and visit soft-play centres. They benefit from planned opportunities to find out about living things and nature as they visit den-building areas and animal sanctuaries. The childminder is skilled at creating exciting story times. For example, the childminder used props to involve children in telling a favourite story linked with activities about mini-beasts. The childminder keeps different ages equally engaged by adapting activities to meet their individual needs. For example, she encouraged younger children's speech by introducing new words and naming different bugs. She extended older children by encouraging them to sort, order and count plastic bugs.

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

Children interact well with one another and the childminder. They demonstrate very good behaviour due to the calm atmosphere and clear guidance from the childminder. The childminder has a strong understanding of children's needs. She understands the benefits of physical exercise to help children release their energy and focus more successfully on quieter activities. The childminder provides a well-resourced playroom. Children choose activities and remain engaged even when the childminder is not interacting with them. The childminder teaches children about healthy lifestyles. Children know to wash their hands before meal times and enjoy balanced, home-cooked meals. The childminder teaches children about the importance of healthy eating and foods that are not good for them.

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

The childminder strives to improve her practice and evaluates her routines and activities constantly. She uses feedback from parents and children to help her improve her practice accordingly. For example, she changed the outings she planned to enable her to respond to children's emerging interests more effectively. The childminder actively improves her knowledge through attending local meetings, conferences and courses. She used knowledge gained on an outdoor activities course to provide children with opportunities to build dens, hunt for bugs and go bird watching. The childminder has strong relationships with the pre-schools children attend and shares information to ensure continuity in children's care and learning. The childminder ensures parents are highly involved in the care and learning she provides. She uses a confidential online system for exchanging information with parents and keeping them well informed. Parents view their children's learning records and contribute ideas to the childminder's planning, for example by sharing favourite places to visit.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY355461
Local authority	West Sussex
Inspection number	837921
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	8
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	23 September 2008
Telephone number	

The childminder registered in 2007. She lives in Crawley, West Sussex. The childminder is registered to receive funding for the provision of free early education for children aged three and four years.

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