

Inspection date	17 March 2015
Previous inspection date	18 November 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

- The childminder is kind and caring towards the children and they make close attachments with her. This ensures children feel happy, settled and secure in her care and has a positive effect on their emotional well-being.
- Children make good progress in their communication and language development. The childminder consistently provides a narrative to activities. She asks appropriate questions that encourage children to use their thinking skills and introduces new words to strengthen vocabulary. This helps to prepare children for attending pre-school or school.
- Children's progress is regularly monitored to identify areas for development and confidently shape future learning. Assessments of children's learning show that they are working comfortably within their expected age range and in some cases beyond.
- Children's independence is promoted well as they make their own decisions about the toys and resources they are interested in playing with.
- Children are safeguarded because the childminder is aware of her responsibilities to protect them from abuse and neglect. Children are well supervised as they move around the play areas. The childminder risk assesses the areas children use to provide a safe and suitable environment.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The childminder does not gather precise information from parents about children's learning when they first start that enables her to sharpen her starting points for assessment.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance strategies for parents to provide information to strengthen arrangements for identifying children's starting points.

Inspection activities

- The inspector viewed the areas of the premises used for childminding, observed her interaction with the children and discussed all aspects of her practice.
- The inspector spoke to the childminder and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector took account of the parents' views through written feedback.
- The inspector looked at children's records, assessment records, and a range of other documentation, including policies and procedures.

Inspector

Carly Mooney

Inspection findings

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

Children make good progress in their learning. The childminder applies a variety of teaching methods that help to support children's interests, such as a fascination with washing machines. Together they build a washing machine from bricks. The childminder encourages children to think about the different parts of the machine they need. They discuss the shapes of the door and dials, and their different functions. The childminder makes good use of her local environment to extend learning. Children visit farms, cafes and old people's homes to gain an understanding of the world around them. Parents are spoken to at each collection time about their child's day. Assessments of children's learning are also shared so parents know about their development. However, parents are not always provided with the opportunity to contribute to children's starting points for learning, so that the childminder can make an accurate assessment of what their child already knows and what they need to learn next.

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

Children and their families are warmly welcomed into the home, where close bonds have formed with the childminder and other members of the family. Children enjoy her company and welcome her interaction during activities. Children's art work is displayed around the home, helping to promote their sense of belonging. Children confidently choose and select toys for themselves from low-level storage. Children attend toddler groups each week and this helps them to socialise with larger groups of children. Children behave well for their age and respond well to positive praise and encouragement. The childminder teaches children about a healthy lifestyle through the snacks she provides and growing produce in the garden. Children develop an awareness of safe practices in their play. For example, in role play, they use gloves to take the cookies out of the oven because they don't want to 'burn themselves'. Children spend time in the fresh air every day. They regularly play in the garden, go on walks in the village or visit parks for further physical activity.

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

The childminder works with her husband who is also a registered childminder. Together they make a dedicated team who work effectively to ensure children make good progress in their learning. The childminder uses appropriate guidance to monitor next steps and achievements in children's learning. The childminder works well with other providers, which supports a coordinated approach to children's development while in her care. There is good capacity for continuous improvement as the childminder successfully evaluates the service she provides. The childminder attends training which benefits children's time in the setting. She meets regularly with other childminders to share good practice. Children are kept safe and secure and protected from harm. Necessary suitability checks for family members have been completed. Parents share very positive views about the care their children receive in written feedback.

Setting details

Unique reference number	260575
Local authority	Cambridgeshire
Inspection number	871642
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	7
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	18 November 2008
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 2001 and lives in Doddington, Cambridgeshire. She operates all year round from 8am to 5pm, Monday to Friday term time only, except for bank holidays and family holidays.

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Piccadilly Gate
Store St
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M1 2WD

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