

Inspection date	12 March 2015
Previous inspection date	16 May 2011

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 enjoy spending time with the childminder and benefit from taking part in stimulating activities that are thoughtfully planned for them. Consequently, children make good progress even after attending for only a short time.
- Teaching is good. The childminder continually extends children's knowledge during conversations and activities. She makes good use of the internet and books to help children follow their interests and, as a result, children are inspired to be inquisitive and enjoy learning.
- Children's emotional well-being is especially well supported by the childminder. She gets to know children quickly when they first start, and helps them to become accustomed to the routines and play opportunities her home offers. This results in children feeling confident and secure in their surroundings.
- The childminder attends conferences and training, as well as having strong links with other childminders in her locality. This helps her to ensure her practice is current and children benefit from her increased knowledge and skills.
- The childminder has a good knowledge of local safeguarding procedures and is observant for any signs of harm. Both she and her family understand the importance of keeping children safe and make sure the home is suitable for children to play and learn in safety.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Links with other providers are not consistently strong for all settings that children attend, to support them to make the very best progress.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen partnerships with all early years provisions that children attend and encourage information sharing that will support children's learning to an even higher level.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the childminder's home and garden.
- The inspector spoke with children and the childminder at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector and childminder took part in a joint observation.
- The inspector read comments from parents and took their views into account.
- The inspector looked at children's learning journals, planning documentation, evidence of background checks and a range of other documentation.

Inspector

Jacqueline Baker

Inspection findings

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

The childminder interacts very well with children, as she spends her day playing alongside them and giving them her undivided attention. Children request their favourite activities time and time again, showing their enjoyment and ability to concentrate and become absorbed in their play. For example, children delight in listening to a much-loved story and use accompanying props to illustrate the tale. The childminder promotes their literacy skills well as she highlights rhyming words and initial sounds as she skilfully reads to them. This prepares children effectively for school and encourages them to develop a love of reading. The childminder motivates children well as they try new skills, and this boosts their confidence and encourages them to practise their talents further. For example, children write kisses on Mother's Day cards for the first time. The childminder is observant of children's learning needs, and uses her knowledge effectively to keep parents fully informed of children's progress.

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

Children behave well in the care of the childminder because, when necessary, she offers timely and gentle reminders about what is acceptable. When visiting the local area, children know their limitations of how far they can run ahead, and this helps to develop children's awareness of their own safety. Equally, at home in the garden, children are careful as they pedal cars along the path and negotiate with each other about who goes first. The childminder teaches children about staying healthy by serving nutritious snacks and talking about how this helps them to develop 'big, strong muscles.' Children think it is great fun as the childminder runs on the spot with them to demonstrate the effect that exercise has on their hearts. These playful interactions support children well to gain knowledge of healthy lifestyles. Children's independence is promoted well as they put on shoes themselves and attend to their own self-care needs according to their stage of development.

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

The childminder has a good understanding of her responsibilities and has a wide range of policies to support her in her work. She uses self-evaluation effectively and has identified areas of her practice where she can make improvements. The childminder has good systems in place to assess children's progress and, due to this consistent monitoring, she is able to see where children need more support and guidance. Partnerships with parents are strong and, in written comments, parents describe how caring the childminder is and how their children benefit from being in her care. A number of children also attend other early years settings and, in some cases, partnerships and information sharing are in place. However, this is not the case for all settings. This means that learning is not maximised for some children, as the childminder is occasionally unaware of children's progress elsewhere.

Setting details

Unique reference number	222735
Local authority	Cambridgeshire
Inspection number	866049
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	8
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	16 May 2011
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 1997 and lives in Wisbech. She operates all year round, from 7am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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