

Inspection date	19 March 2015
Previous inspection date	2 February 2009

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		Outstanding	1
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 encouraged to develop their early writing skills because the childminder regularly integrates opportunities for children to experiment with writing in their play. This helps to prepare children for the experiences they will encounter at school.
- Children are guided exceptionally well to develop their independence skills. The childminder provides consistent, challenging and meaningful routines and opportunities for children to practise doing things for themselves.
- The childminder is highly skilled in helping children to develop their understanding of healthy lifestyles. Children learn about growing fruit and vegetables, they choose from healthy foods to eat and they learn about the effects of physical activity while taking part in daily outdoor exercise.
- The childminder has a strong understanding of safeguarding and her role to protect children. She undertakes comprehensive procedures to ensure that children are provided with a safe environment, both at her home and on outings.
- The childminder is very pro-active in communicating with parents and the other settings that children attend. As a result, strong partnerships are formed and children's learning is very well supported.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The childminder does not always organise activities highly effectively. This means that on occasions she does not give children her full attention to guide them in activities that require their concentration.
- Older children are not always challenged through highly-effective questioning. As a result, they have fewer opportunities to think critically to develop their own ideas.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- organise planned activities more effectively so that children of all ages can receive the support that they need to become more engrossed in their learning
- enhance older children's ability to think critically about what they are going to do, for example, by using deep discussion and questions that challenge them to think.

Inspection activities

- The inspector checked evidence of the suitability and qualifications of the childminder.
- The inspector observed the childminder engage in a range of activities and care routines with the children.
- The inspector held discussions with the childminder.
- The inspector looked at a selection of policies and procedures.
- The inspector viewed a selection of letters and emails from parents and other settings that children attend.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the childminder.

Inspector

Lisa Bolton

Inspection findings

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

Children are active and motivated in their play because the childminder provides for children's interests. She offers a stimulating and diverse range of experiences to entice children, both indoors and outdoors. On occasions, the organisation of learning experiences means that the childminder is sometimes occupied with supervising children, rather than engaging in sustained activities with them to encourage their concentration skills. The childminder skilfully models how to use words correctly when children make their own attempts. For example, when children refer to 'handle doors', the childminder responds sensitively, using the correct word order for children to hear. Consequently, children are effectively supported to develop their speaking skills. The childminder asks children a mix of open and closed questions to probe their understanding. However, her use of questioning does not always challenge older children to think deeply about what they are doing.

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

The childminder places utmost priority on developing positive relationships with children, so that they feel reassured by her. As a result, children rapidly grow in confidence to explore their environment from an early age. Children enjoy the outdoors on walks and trips, as well as visiting local playgroups. This shows good support for children's physical and emotional well-being. The childminder is an excellent role model because she is consistently patient and calm. She communicates clearly with children so that they understand rules and boundaries to keep themselves and others safe. The childminder has an expert understanding of how to give children the freedom to experiment and make mistakes within a safe environment, so that they learn to manage their own risk. Children learn to use good manners and the childminder uses highly-effective strategies to teach them to respect one another. Consequently, any minor disagreements are solved quickly.

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

The childminder has a strong understanding of safeguarding and her role to protect children. She undertakes comprehensive procedures to ensure that children are provided with a safe environment, both at her home and during outings. The childminder understands her responsibility to meet the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. She thoroughly observes children at play to plan for their next steps in learning. She uses these observations to monitor the coverage of all areas of learning for individual children. The childminder uses her assessment system effectively to track children's progress over time. She has a good understanding of how to support children, including if children have any gaps in their learning. The childminder's childcare qualification and training have a strong impact on her good practice. She effectively evaluates her own practice, identifying priorities for improvement, which she is very driven to achieve. Furthermore, she engages with other childminders and the local authority to support her improvement.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY317019
Local authority	Wigan
Inspection number	856825
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	2 February 2009
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 2005. She lives in a house in Hindley Green, near Wigan. The childminder holds a childcare qualification at level 4. The provision operates all year round, from 7.45am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays.

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