

Inspection date	19 March 2015
Previous inspection date	20 April 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		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 and her assistant quickly establish warm and caring relationships with children to help them settle in quickly and feel secure. Children are happy and settled with the childminder. They form secure attachments and positive relationships, which effectively promotes their emotional well-being.
- The childminder carefully considers children's interests and individual preferences when planning activities and outings. This means that children are eager to take part and thoroughly enjoy learning.
- The childminder develops trusting partnerships with parents. They value the time she spends with their children and the information shared with them about their children's development and welfare.
- Children thoroughly enjoy their time and make good progress in their language, speech and communication skills through activities that they are able to talk about and reflect on.
- The childminder's home is welcoming and well-resourced with good quality toys, stored within children's reach. This enables them to make choices about their play.
- The childminder is aware of the importance of enabling children to play independently. This supports children's social skills as they negotiate and play together with the small world train track.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The childminder has not fully developed opportunities for parents to contribute to their children's assessment process, so that they work together even more effectively to meet children's needs.
- Opportunities for children to further enhance their independence skills by being able to prepare and serve their own meals and snacks are not fully extended.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- extend the ways in which parents contribute to the assessment process and are kept informed about their children's ongoing progress
- support children's independence further, for example, by encouraging them to help prepare their own meals and snack.

Inspection activities

- The inspector had a tour of the premises and observed the indoor and outdoor play spaces.
- The inspector observed a range of learning activities in the playroom.
- The inspector spoke to the childminder, her assistant and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector sampled a range of documentation, including evidence of the suitability of adults living and working on the premises, children's development records, risk assessments and a selection of policies and procedures.

Inspector

Jennifer Turner

Inspection findings

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

The childminder has a good understanding of the learning and development requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage and demonstrates good teaching skills. She makes regular assessments and uses this information well to plan challenging activities to extend children's learning. The information is documented well and is shared regularly with parents, to ensure they are kept updated with their child's progress. However, she has not fully developed opportunities for parents to contribute to the assessment process. The childminder takes children on regular outings, such as to local groups, visits to the park and local walks to help them socialise, learn about the world around them and develop their physical skills. In addition, children explore a range of objects in the treasure basket to explore and develop their sensory skills. Children have opportunities to practise their early writing skills. They use a range of writing materials to draw pictures of kites, balloons and write their names. Therefore, all children are acquiring the key skills they need in preparation for school.

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

The childminder is familiar with children's eating patterns, sleeping routines and general preferences as she gathers good information from parents when children first start with her. She sensitively supports young children at snack and mealtimes as she encourages them to feed themselves. However, she does not fully encourage more able children to develop their independence skills, for example, by serving and preparing their own snacks. Children understand about good hygiene practices, as they wash their hands before snack time. These skills fully support children's good health and well-being. Children learn about safety throughout the day and the childminder regularly practises fire drills with them.

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

The childminder holds a relevant childcare qualification and this has strengthened her understanding of the learning and development requirements. In addition, the childminder recognises the importance of keeping up to date through further training, attending education shows and by reading relevant publications. This helps support the childminder's continuous development and ability to plan interesting activities that promote children's learning and development. The childminder and her assistant have a good knowledge of child protection procedures. They reduce potential dangers in the home and on outings by conducting robust risk assessments. The childminder monitors her assistant by ensuring she keeps abreast of changes. The childminder demonstrates a clear understanding of the importance of partnership working with parents, outside agencies and other early years providers. She has close links with the local pre-school with a view to promoting consistency in children's care and learning in the future.

Setting details

Unique reference number	259976
Local authority	Solihull
Inspection number	867161
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	9
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	20 April 2009
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 2001 and lives in the Bently Heath area of Solihull. She operates all year round, from 7.45 am to 6pm, Monday to Thursday, except bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder receives funding for two-, three- and four-year-old children. She works with an assistant and holds a childcare qualification at level 3.

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