

Inspection date

20 March 2015

Previous inspection date

9 December 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 supports children to make good progress in their learning and development. She completes accurate assessments of children's progress, which helps her to identify and support children's next steps in learning.
- The childminder is very effective in supporting older children's communication and language skills. She encourages children to recall and predict events. She asks them to tell her what they think is happening and what they are planning to do. This helps children to learn to express their ideas and thoughts.
- Children's well-being is effectively promoted by the childminder. Children are kept safe and show they feel secure and at ease as they play happily in her care.
- The childminder develops positive relationships with parents and other settings children attend. This supports a good exchange of information, which promotes continuity in children's care and learning.
- The childminder has undertaken training and obtained a childcare qualification at level 3, since her last inspection. This has helped her to develop her practice and improve the learning and care experiences she provides to children.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The childminder does not consistently use all of the possible ways to extend younger children's communication and language skills. This means younger children are not always supported to maintain the highest levels of achievement.
- The childminder does not use her garden throughout the year. This means that children cannot always make the choice to move their play from indoors to outdoors, to help enhance their learning.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance opportunities for younger children to develop their communication and language skills by, for example, planning more time to talk through and describe what children are doing and seeing as they play
- enhance opportunities for children to make the choice of playing indoors or outdoors, for example, by making the garden available for them to play in throughout the year.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the childminder's home.
- The inspector spoke to the childminder and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector looked at children's records, and a range of other documentation, including self-evaluation, suitability checks, policies and procedures.

Inspector

Christine Armstrong

Inspection findings

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

The childminder provides a good variety of activities to promote children's learning and development across the seven areas of learning. She understands how important it is for children to find out things for themselves. The childminder provides a range of unusual resources, such as water beads and a collection of scoops and containers for children to explore and experiment with. Children demonstrate high levels of curiosity and imagination, and they are eager to try new ways of doing things. They learn through trial and error, and they learn to persist when challenges arise, such as opening and closing tops on plastic bottles. Children learn the language of number, colour, shape and size as they play. They learn to listen and follow instructions well, which helps children to get ready for starting school. Younger children learn how to pronounce words and talk in sentences because the childminder repeats and extends what they say. However, the childminder does not always capture all opportunities to extend their vocabulary. Children visit a number of local venues, such as indoor soft-play areas and the library. This helps children to develop their interest in books and make good progress in their physical development. Children are supported well to make choices about the resources they play with. However, they are not as well supported to make the choice to play outdoors.

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

The childminder works well with parents to support children to settle quickly into her care. Children thrive in her safe and secure care. They develop good awareness of healthy lifestyles. Children walk to local venues and play in local parks. They are eager to taste new foods and they know that fruit is a healthy food. They develop good self-care skills, confidence and independence. For example, they learn to spread and cut their sandwiches safely. Older children enjoy the added responsibility of undertaking tasks, such as introducing visitors to the children. Children take part in a varied range of festivals throughout the year, which helps them to recognise and value differences in themselves and others. Children develop friendships, good behaviour and social skills. They learn to share, wait to take their turn, help each other and use good manners.

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

The childminder has a strong knowledge of the learning and development requirements and how to keep children safe. She has recently updated her safeguarding training. This has helped her to gain a deeper knowledge of child protection and safeguarding issues and procedures. The childminder is always looking for ways to improve experiences for children. She has focused well on improving her assessment and monitoring arrangements. This has helped her to share good quality information about children's progress with parents and support children's learning at home. The childminder seeks and takes into account the views of parents and children when deciding what could be improved in the setting. This has led her to provide parents with more photographs of their children at play, which supports parents to share in their children's experiences.

Setting details

Unique reference number	209830
Local authority	Staffordshire
Inspection number	865644
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 10
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	9
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	9 December 2008
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 1984. She lives in Walsall, West Midlands. She operates all year round, from 8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder holds a childcare qualification at level 3.

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