

**Inspection date**

25 March 2015

Previous inspection date

22 December 2009

<b>The quality and standards of the early years provision</b>	<b>This inspection:</b>	<b>Outstanding</b>	<b>1</b>
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Outstanding	1
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		Outstanding	1
The setting <b>meets legal requirements for early years settings</b>			

## Summary of key findings for parents

### This provision is outstanding

- The childminder teaches children superbly. She promotes children's communication and language skills extremely well. The excellent balance of conversation and open questioning with time for quiet reflection means children are rapidly developing their skills.
- The childminder expertly encourages children's mathematical development. She consistently introduces the language that children need to express their understanding and makes the most of practical opportunities to count, look at quantity and weight.
- Relationships with parents are very strong. The honest and open partnerships contribute significantly to children's well-being because everyone works together.
- Children are developing a strong sense of their own safety as they move the small furniture from the kitchen to the playroom. They carry the items with great skill and care. The older pre-school children explain how they do this and demonstrate very clearly the care they take to keep everyone safe.
- The childminder's knowledge of safeguarding is secure. She regularly refreshes her safeguarding and first-aid qualifications. This means that she responds to any concerns about children, or accidents they have, with up-to-date knowledge. The childminder's robust practice ensures her consistent protection of children's safety and welfare.
- Meticulous monitoring of practice and a proactive approach to keeping up to date ensure the childminder maintains the excellent service for children and their families.
- The childminder develops children's independence to a high level. She gradually builds their abilities by providing evermore challenging tasks accompanied by fulsome praise for their terrific effort and their success.

## What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance children's experiences by maintaining the focus on continuous professional development, to further extend the already excellent teaching.

## Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the kitchen, dining area and playroom. She reflected on children's learning with the childminder.
- The inspector, childminder and children had conversations at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector looked at documentation relating to the day-to-day organisation of the childminding service, children's progress and self-evaluation.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents from information provided by the childminder.
- The inspector checked the evidence of the suitability and qualifications of the childminder and the suitability of other household members aged over 16 years.

## Inspector

Alison Reeves

## Inspection findings

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

The childminder offers children an excellent variety of meaningful learning experiences. They are enthusiastic, displaying a tremendous eagerness to explore, discover and learn. The childminder expertly includes children's interests, extending these to further their knowledge. For example, when they are making their collages, talking about Easter eggs, she asks where they get real eggs. This promotes children's thinking, getting them to recall past experiences of collecting eggs from the childminder's chickens. To support children with their writing skills, she encourages them to develop their hand control as they use glue spreaders and carefully pick out pieces of coloured tissue paper for their picture. The childminder reads with children frequently; her calm manner and unhurried approach allow children to become deeply involved in storytelling. She supports the youngest children superbly. She helps them to build their concentration by using innovative resources that children can explore and investigate in their own way and time. As a result, children are keen, motivated learners equipped with the skills for the next stage in their education.

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

Children thrive in the nurturing environment. They are happy, confident and relate very well to others. The childminder is extremely skilled, making the most of opportunities for learning about health and wellness in daily routines. Children know the importance of washing their hands to stop the spread of germs and of eating a balance diet. They are rapidly developing their strength and body awareness with songs about the body and exciting, challenging physical play. One of their favourites is the indoor basketball hoop that tests their accuracy and control as they try to score a basket. The childminder continually builds children's confidence and sense of self-worth; they beam with delight because she makes them feel proud of themselves. Children behave beautifully because the childminder sets clear boundaries, uses highly appropriate explanations and has high expectations of what they can achieve. This means children have the positive attributes necessary for learning in school.

### **The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision is outstanding**

The childminder is well qualified and experienced. She has a thorough, detailed understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage. She is highly effective in establishing successful partnerships with parents and other professionals working with the children. Consequently, children experience a seamless transition from home to the childminder and other settings. This contributes significantly to children's progress and the continuity of experience. The excellent information sharing means the childminder has all the available details on children, which she uses expertly to monitor and track their progress towards the early learning goals. The childminder has robust procedures in place to ensure children are safeguarded and acknowledges the importance of maintaining her skills to enhance their education further still.

## Setting details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	222602
<b>Local authority</b>	Cambridgeshire
<b>Inspection number</b>	866043
<b>Type of provision</b>	Childminder
<b>Registration category</b>	Childminder
<b>Age range of children</b>	0 - 17
<b>Total number of places</b>	6
<b>Number of children on roll</b>	13
<b>Name of provider</b>	
<b>Date of previous inspection</b>	22 December 2009
<b>Telephone number</b>	

The childminder was registered in 1996 and lives in Steeple Morden. She operates all year round from 7.15am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. She holds a formal childcare qualification at level 3.

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