

Inspection date	26 March 2015
Previous inspection date	6 October 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 enhances children's vocabulary and communication skills during daily routines and play activities. Children communicate confidently with the childminder and they are able to make their needs known.
- The childminder uses the nearby amenities to offer children experiences in a number of different environments. For example, she visits the local park and garden centre with the children. She provides stimulating play experiences which help children to learn about the wider world and support good progress in their learning and development.
- Children have trusting and affectionate relationships with the childminder. They demonstrate that they are happy in her care as they easily approach her for support and enjoy her relaxed manner. Consequently, they play confidently, enjoy their learning and make good progress in their development.
- The childminder has a good knowledge and understanding of safeguarding policies and procedures, and is aware of her responsibilities in this respect. Children play in a secure, safe environment where the childminder completes daily safety checks and regularly reviews risk assessments to promote their welfare.
- The childminder establishes positive relationships with parents. An effective two-way flow of communication supports children's welfare and learning and development.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- There is scope to promote everyday opportunities where children can explore a range of cultures and religions to extend their very good understanding of the wider world.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- extend ways of supporting children's growing understanding of family, the community and the wider world to broaden children's knowledge and reflect an inclusive ethos.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the childminder's house and talked with the childminder.
- The inspector viewed the areas of the premises and garden used for childminding.
- The inspector looked at children's assessment records, planning documentation, evidence of suitability of household members, and a range of other documentation, including the safeguarding procedures.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents, as recorded in written questionnaires and reference letters.
- The inspector reviewed the provider's self-evaluation form.

Inspector

Clair Stockings

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 welcoming environment, where children demonstrate they feel happy and enjoy being with her. She knows the children very well and talks in detail about their strengths and areas for further development. Children receive good attention, have fun and are making good progress. Accurate observations show how children are developing consistently in their expected development bands and are acquiring skills for their next steps in learning. The childminder extends children's mathematical learning during play activities. For example, she talks about different colours, shapes and sizes as they use construction blocks to build a tower together. As a result, the childminder supports children's development well. She provides a solid base for future progress and learning experiences as they move on to their next stage in learning. However, there is scope to extend the range of resources and experiences that reflect different cultures and backgrounds to promote children's understanding of the world further.

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

Children are happy and settled in the warm and caring family environment. The childminder is a good role model through being happy, calm and kind towards children. She manages behaviour positively using praise and encouragement, and is consistent in her approach. As a result, children's behaviour is good. She takes time to give each child individual attention, so that they feel special and valued. Consequently, the childminder effectively prepares children emotionally for their future learning. The childminder provides a varied range of interesting play activities which ignite children's curiosity. Children make choices as they decide what they want to play with. Resources and activities are easily accessible and children confidently explore their surroundings to initiate their own learning. The childminder promotes children's awareness of personal safety and risks well. This is because she offers timely safety directions, such as not climbing on the furniture. These gentle reminders also teach children to manage their own safety.

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

The childminder has an effective knowledge and understanding of the learning requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. She updates her knowledge through personal research. She actively participates in a local cluster group with other childminders, sharing ideas to enhance her practice and improve outcomes for children. The childminder successfully monitors the educational programmes to ensure that children make good progress. Through self-evaluation, she takes into account the views of children and their parents and uses this to reflect on the quality of her provision. This enables her to identify areas for development and plan for changes and improvements. The childminder is aware of the benefits of sharing information with other early years providers in order to provide continuity of learning for children. She exchanges information with some of the other settings that children attend to share good practice.

Setting details

Unique reference number	123884
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	874776
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	6 October 2009
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 1998 and lives in Cheshunt. She operates all year round, from 7.30am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, except bank holidays and family holidays.

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Piccadilly Gate
Store St
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M1 2WD

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