

Inspection date	1 April 2015
Previous inspection date	1 April 2011

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 forms warm and supportive relationships with children, which help them settle and feel safe in her care. This promotes their emotional well-being.
- The childminder forms positive partnerships with parents. They share observations of children's achievements, which contribute to a continuous approach when monitoring their development. Written comments from parents note the childminder is friendly and professional, and their children enjoy the activities she provides.
- The childminder provides a good range of purposeful play activities based on children's interests. This actively motivates their learning and supports their next steps in development. Consequently, children develop new skills and make good progress.
- The childminder helps children recognise letter sounds of their names and they think of other words with the same letters. This actively encourages children to link sounds with letters and effectively promotes their early reading skills.
- The childminder regularly attends training opportunities, such as developing resources for children's outdoor play activities. This effectively helps her update and develop her knowledge and understanding, and therefore improve outcomes for children.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The childminder has not fully established procedures for consistently sharing information on children's care and learning with all other providers they attend.
- The childminder does not always use photographs of people, events and places to encourage conversations with children and develop their sense of identity.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen the arrangements for sharing information with other providers children attend, to fully promote a consistent approach to all aspects of children's care and learning
- maximise use of photographs of people and places important to children, to prompt discussions, strengthen their sense of identity and enhance their awareness of similarities and differences in their lives.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children's interactions in their play indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector sampled documentation, such as operational policies and procedures, and required records.
- The inspector took into account the written views of parents.
- The inspector discussed children's development with the childminder.
- The inspector viewed the childminder's self-evaluation form.

Inspector

Mary Daniel

Inspection findings

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

The childminder is qualified in child care and understands children's development very well. She recognises their achievements in play and provides activities that effectively challenge their existing skills. Children became absorbed decorating their Easter baskets. They carefully used brushes to spread glue and stuck colourful tissue pieces on the basket. Children enjoy exploring messy play, such as paint or shaving foam. This provides positive opportunities for them to discover colour and texture, and develop good coordination skills. The childminder showed younger children how to operate a favourite activity toy. Children quickly copied her actions and smiled in delight as the colourful cogs and wheels on the toy started moving round. This effectively encourages children's early understanding of cause and effect, as well as simple technology.

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

The childminder often takes children to soft play centres, local parks or woods, where they have fun running, stretching and climbing. This provides children with enjoyable activities that support and challenge their developing mobility. The childminder praises children often and has firm, consistent boundaries, which help them feel secure. She actively encourages children's independence and they gain confidence in taking responsibility for their personal care. This effectively helps children develop skills that support their move to pre-school and school. The childminder creates a bright, inviting home for children, displaying their art work to show how she values their efforts. The childminder recognises children's individuality and involves them in community activities, such as a local carnival. However, she does not always use photographs to prompt discussions about similarities and differences in their lives and extend their sense of identity.

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

The childminder has a good understanding of the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. She supports her assistant's knowledge effectively as they discuss her policies and procedures, and attend first-aid and safeguarding training. This develops their understanding of promoting children's health, as well as procedures to protect their welfare. The childminder has developed clear systems for evaluating her practice since the last inspection. In addition, she provides more counting activities and number resources to develop children's early mathematical awareness. This shows the childminder actively makes improvements to develop her practice. The childminder liaises with some other providers children attend. However, she does not consistently share information about children's next steps of development. This does not fully promote continuity in all aspects of children's care and learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY414357
Local authority	Somerset
Inspection number	832158
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	9
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	1 April 2011
Telephone number	

The childminder registered in 2010. She lives in Castle Cary, Somerset. The childminder receives funding to provide free early years education for children aged three and four years. The childminder holds a childcare qualification at level 3. At times, the childminder works with an assistant.

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of provision that is registered on the Early Years Register. The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and care, known as the Early Years Foundation Stage.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the guidance 'Complaints procedure: raising concerns and making complaints about Ofsted', which is available from Ofsted's website: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted. If you would like Ofsted to send you a copy of the guidance, please telephone 0300 123 4234, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, work-based learning and skills training, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for looked after children, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 4234, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may copy all or parts of this document for non-commercial educational purposes, as long as you give details of the source and date of publication and do not alter the information in any way.

To receive regular email alerts about new publications, including survey reports and school inspection reports, please visit our website and go to 'Subscribe'.

Piccadilly Gate
Store St
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 4234
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted

© Crown copyright 2015

