

Inspection date	26 March 2015
Previous inspection date	2 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 understands how to promote children's learning and has high expectations for their achievements. She supports children to make good progress in their learning and development.
- Older children are supported very effectively to develop their emerging literacy skills. They learn to name and sound letters of the alphabet. They are beginning to segment and blend the sounds in simple words.
- Children develop strong attachments with the childminder. They are kept safe and happy in her care.
- The childminder establishes positive relationships with parents and other settings that children attend. This helps her to identify and meet children's care and learning needs.
- The childminder seeks and makes good use of support from other childminders, guidance documents and training. This helps her to improve the learning and care experiences she provides for children.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Children's understanding of healthy eating is not always fully supported at lunchtime.
- The childminder does not always capture all opportunities to support children's understanding of number.

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 understanding of healthy eating, for example, by supporting them to make more healthy food choices at lunchtime
- enhance opportunities for children to develop their mathematical skills, for example, by creating more ways for them to use and experiment with number labels in their play.

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, and 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 range of activities to promote children's learning and development across the seven areas of learning. She undertakes accurate assessments and uses this information to identify and plan for children's next steps in learning. As a result, activities and experiences are well matched to children's differing abilities. This ensures that all children are supported to make good progress, which prepares them well for their future learning, including school. The childminder effectively encourages children to persevere with new tasks, such as using glue sticks. This leads children to experience a great sense of achievement. When older children ask questions, the childminder encourages them to think about possible answers before she answers. This supports children's critical-thinking skills. Younger children are continually introduced to new words in the context of their play, singing songs and looking at books. Children enjoy and are eager to show that they can correctly count items up to 20. However, they are not fully challenged to use or experiment with numerals as they play.

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

Children demonstrate they feel at ease and secure as they play happily in the childminder's care. Children enjoy very positive relationships with each other. They are supported well to consider others and to take turns and share. The childminder supports children to do as much as they can for themselves. This helps children to develop good levels of independence and confidence. Children take part in a range of activities that help them to enjoy becoming active. They attend weekly gym and music and movement sessions and they are introduced to water play in the local swimming baths. Children develop good self-care skills and learn about the importance of good hygiene. They learn about healthy eating through stories. They take part in cooking activities and eat healthy snacks, such as fresh fruit. However, some of the food that children eat at lunchtime is less healthy. Therefore, their understanding of healthy eating is not fully supported.

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

The childminder has a secure knowledge of the learning and development requirements and how to keep children safe. She makes sure all potential risks are minimised so that children are kept safe and secure. She understands the possible signs of abuse and she knows what to do if she was to have a concern about a child in her care. The childminder regularly seeks and responds to the views of children and parents to make improvements to her provision. She has recently improved the organisation of toys and resources, which has led to children making more choices as they play. Improvements to her assessment systems have resulted in more accurate and detailed information for parents, which helps to support children's learning at home.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY297427
Local authority	Sandwell
Inspection number	861617
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 10
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	4
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	2 October 2009
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 2004. Her home is on the second floor of an apartment block, and is accessible via two flights of stairs. She operates all year round, from 8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays.

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