

Inspection date	31 March 2015
Previous inspection date	8 July 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 skilfully uses real resources and situations to complement her consistently good teaching. Consequently, children are learning in meaningful situations and are making good progress in all areas of learning and development.
- The childminder accurately assesses children's learning and uses this knowledge to successfully offer next steps in planned and spontaneous learning.
- The childminder is sensitive to children's emotional needs and well-being. As a result of this, children form strong attachments and are confident in her care.
- Children are offered a good range of indoor resources that they can decide how and when to use. As a result, independence, self-confidence and motivation are very good and are preparing them well for school.
- The childminder and her assistant have a comprehensive understanding of how to keep children safe. This is because they have attended training on safeguarding, first aid and food hygiene. Suitability checks are completed for each member of the household.
- The childminder's assistant has completed a level 3 qualification and has used this training to refresh some areas of practice. For example, they now observe each other's practice to ensure that teaching remains consistently good.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The childminder does not consistently share information with parents on the progress that children are making in their learning, so that learning can be extended at home.
- The childminder does always use her outdoor area to offer the same good quality daily learning experiences that are consistently offered indoors.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen partnerships with parents by sharing information about their child's progress on a more regular basis, to support children's continuity of learning at home
- enhance the outdoor learning environment and use it more effectively, in order to maximise children's learning experiences.

Inspection activities

- The inspector had a tour of the rooms that are used by the children.
- The inspector observed interactions with the children, the childminder and her assistant.
- The inspector spoke with the childminder at appropriate times throughout the inspection and discussed children's learning opportunities with her.
- The inspector looked at a selection of policies and procedures, which included safeguarding and behaviour, and evidence of suitability checks.
- The inspector took account of written comments from parents.

Inspector

Kathy Kilner

Inspection findings

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

The childminder observes children and accurately assesses their learning and development. She uses this knowledge to offer next steps in planned and spontaneous learning. The childminder knows the children and how they learn best and personalises learning for each child. She finds out what children can do before they start to attend her setting. Parents are asked for information about their children's achievements to assess their starting points. The childminder includes information about learning in children's journals. However, she does not regularly ensure parents are aware of how to extend that learning at home. The childminder knows that communication, personal and social and physical development form the basis for future learning. She ensures that children have an abundance of opportunities in these areas of learning. She also offers opportunities for learning across all seven areas of learning. For example, children are supported as they explore different sounds in the environment. This includes the noise the cat makes and the snipping noise of the scissors. This will support later reading and writing, as they learn to differentiate letter sounds. Mathematical development is well supported in real counting situations that supports their early understanding of numbers. The childminder accurately assesses where any children need additional support and engages with parents to secure this.

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

The children have a warm and caring bond with the childminder. The loving environment means that they have also formed caring relationships with the other children. For example, children note when another child needs a tissue and pass them one. Behaviour is very good because children are aware of boundaries. They know that there are rules that need to be there for everyone. When children exploring cutting different textures are asked not to cut their aprons, they listen immediately. Children's independence is extremely well fostered. They cut their own healthy fruit snack with safety knives. They move resources from one room to another to support their play. The childminder has organised the indoor environment to promote both independence and learning. Children are regularly taken on outings. However, the outdoor area does not offer the same quality of learning experiences that are available inside.

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

The childminder has a good knowledge of the learning and development requirements and understands her responsibility for safeguarding children. She ensures that her assistant is suitable to work with children and carries out regular supervision to ensure consistency in the quality of practice. All required documentation is maintained well and is successfully used to ensure the safe and efficient management of her provision. The childminder understands that she must work in partnership with other providers when children attend more than one provision. She has carried out an evaluation of her provision, identifying areas for development.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY136833
Local authority	Lincolnshire
Inspection number	869663
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	12
Number of children on roll	6
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	8 July 2009
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 2002 and lives in Gainsborough, Lincolnshire. She has an assistant working with her. The childminder operates all year round from 7.30am to 5pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays.

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