

Inspection date

8 April 2015

Previous inspection date

11 July 2012

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 and children benefit from positive relationships with each other. This helps children to feel relaxed and at ease in the childminder's care.
- The childminder forms strong partnerships with parents. She provides them with effective information about her service and their children's day, learning and progress. As a result, parents are well-informed.
- The childminder promotes children's safety thoroughly. She uses appropriate safety equipment and completes daily safety checks to minimise risks to children. Children develop awareness about their safety as the childminder provides clear guidance about risks to them.
- The childminder has a clear understanding of how to promote children's learning and development through good quality teaching. She uses observation, planning and assessment effectively to promote children's good progress.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The childminder takes some steps to form partnerships with other early years settings children attend. For example, she has provided information about children's learning and progress in her care. However, there is not a regular two-way flow of information to promote a consistent approach between the settings.
- Occasionally, the childminder does not always fully extend discussions with children to extend their knowledge and understanding further.

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 other early years settings children attend to develop a consistent approach to sharing information about children's care and learning needs
- enhance children's knowledge and understanding further through consistently extending discussions with them.

Inspection activities

- The inspector spoke to the childminder and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector observed the childminder's interaction with the children and their play and activities indoors.
- The inspector sampled a selection of documentation, including some written policies, children's progress records and the childminder's self-evaluation.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents through written information from them.
- The inspector viewed the areas of the home available for the care of children.

Inspector

Sheena Bankier

Inspection findings

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

Children enjoy their learning experiences. They explore and investigate the activities with great interest and concentrate well. They use their imaginations and small physical skills effectively to mould modelling material into different shapes. They experiment with it in different ways. For example, they make and cook 'pancakes' and then mould it into a ball and play catch. The childminder uses local facilities very well to promote children's readiness for their next stage of learning. For instance, she uses a library reading scheme to encourage children's interest in books and to raise their awareness of the world. The childminder supports children's learning effectively. She asks questions to help children think and consider how to do things, such as how to match puzzle pieces. The childminder works closely with parents to understand their children's learning needs. She provides effective information to help them support their children's learning at home. As a result, together they support children's learning and development consistently.

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

Babies enjoy care tailored to their individual needs. The childminder agrees with parents about where they can sleep and ensures they have their comforters with them. The childminder gives babies time to wake up properly as she cuddles them and talks in a warm, calm voice. This helps children feel safe and secure. Children are confident in the childminder's care and older children express their needs well. This helps them to manage their personal needs, such as visiting the toilet. The childminder promotes children's self-care and independence well, such as dressing and developing babies' feeding skills. Children receive appropriate guidance to help them understand the behaviour expectations. The childminder holds discussions about starting nursery, which prepares children well for these changes. Children benefit from daily fresh air and physical exercise to promote their good health.

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

The childminder understands her responsibilities well. She has a secure knowledge of safeguarding and the procedures to follow should she have concerns about a child's welfare. The childminder develops her practice well. For example, she reviewed the learning environment and rearranged this using ideas gained from an internet support group. As a result, children benefit from more free space and make further choices about their play. The childminder evaluates her practice well and identifies her strengths and areas to develop further to ensure she continues to improve. She closely monitors children's learning to identify their needs for further support or challenge. Consequently, she identifies their next steps in learning so they progress well from their starting points.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY442884
Local authority	West Berkshire (Newbury)
Inspection number	824607
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	4
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	11 July 2012
Telephone number	

The childminder registered in 2012. She lives in Tilehurst, West Berkshire. The childminder offers her service Monday to Friday, all year round. She is currently working towards a recognised level 3 childcare qualification.

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Piccadilly Gate
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