

Inspection date

9 April 2015

Previous inspection date

9 November 2009

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Outstanding	1
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Outstanding	1
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Outstanding	1
The setting meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- The childminder has many years' experience and she is a very popular choice with parents. She is currently caring for second generations of children and some older children have attended since they were babies.
- Children play cooperatively and their behaviour is excellent. This is because they are highly settled and the childminder values each child by providing positive, meaningful comments during their play, which raises their self-esteem.
- Excellent partnerships with parents and nursery staff, mean that all adults work together extremely well, to promote very good consistency and continuity in children's learning.
- Children are highly confident and self-motivated. They approach their activities eagerly and clearly enjoy their time with the childminder. Consequently, they learn through fun, stimulating experiences, which ensures that they make rapid progress.
- Children have formed close bonds and have excellent relationships with the childminder as she is caring and competent. This supports children's emotional well-being successfully.
- The childminder is very clear about her safeguarding procedures and maintains a safe, secure home which is regularly risk assessed. This means that she knows what to do if she has any concerns and children are safe and well-protected.
- Parents are very well informed and share what they know about their children's learning on a regular basis. Noticeboards in the entrance also ensure that they can easily see the activity plans, relevant safety information and sample menus on offer.
- Observation and assessment is precise and sharply focused on what children need to achieve next. Consequently, they make strides in their learning.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance the learning opportunities outside for children even further by providing more natural and exploratory materials, and objects to use in their play, such as earth and magnifying glasses.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed and discussed the activities in the living room, kitchen and the outside area.
- The inspector looked at the childminder's training certificates, children's assessment records and learning journals and the self-evaluation form.
- The inspector spoke to the childminder and children at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector checked evidence of the suitability of the childminder and household members.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents and carers from information included in the childminder's own parent surveys.

Inspector

Shirley Peart

Inspection findings

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

The childminder plans an excellent range of adult-led activities and ensures that children have an abundance of choice. Consequently, they make their own decisions about what they would like to do and whether they want to play indoors or outside. The childminder helps to move children on in their learning, in readiness for school. For example, when children make towers out of bricks they compare height and explain that they are 'bigger.' She uses highly effective questioning, such as 'How many more do we need?' This enables children to think critically, and work out simple mathematical problems as they count out bricks to make their tower taller. Consequently, children make rapid progress. Children have very good opportunities to grow things in their pots, such as sunflowers. The childminder points out a birds' nest and butterflies, and children look for ladybirds, which stimulates conversations. However, she is aware that she could offer more opportunities to enhance the way in which children explore and learn about the natural world further.

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

The childminder provides an exceptionally well-organised and stimulating environment, where children move around independently and safely. Their health needs are very well supported. They use their own wash bags, wipe their feet when they come inside, and enjoy fresh, home-cooked meals. The childminder ensures that children use sun cream and wear sun hats in hot weather, as they love to be outside in the fresh air. They eagerly dig in the sand and use their energy to bat balls and throw plastic discs with enthusiasm. Children also have excellent opportunities to write on the chalkboard, which supports their learning exceptionally well, particularly the pre-school boys who learn best outside. The childminder has very good systems to help children with the settling-in process. She uses All about me and transition documents with parents, so that she has a very clear picture of children's needs and what their routines are as they settle in. Children are highly confident and very settled. They have excellent relationships with the childminder, other children and the childminder's husband, as they are treated very much as part of the family.

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

The childminder is longstanding and highly dedicated to her role. She understands the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage and keeps herself up to date by reviewing legislation on a regular basis. She identifies and attends training, that she knows will help to enhance her skills and knowledge further. Consequently, this has a positive impact on children's learning and development. The childminder sets clear targets for improvement and monitors her provision very well. For example, she plans to build on her relationships with school and nursery staff even further. Highly effective partnerships with parents ensure that they are fully involved. They regularly add their contributions to their children's learning journals, and the feedback on questionnaires is highly positive. This demonstrates that they work together exceptionally well to support children's learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	506953
Local authority	Northumberland
Inspection number	869313
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	11
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	9 November 2009
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 1990. She operates all year round, from 7.30am to 5pm, Monday to Friday, except bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder holds a relevant qualification at level 3. The setting is situated in New Hartley, Tyne and Wear.

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