

Inspection date	13 April 2015
Previous inspection date	Not applicable

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection: Previous inspection:	Good Not applicable	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

- Children are progressing well because the childminder is knowledgeable of how children learn and her teaching methods are good. As a result, she provides children with exciting and challenging activities, which motivates and engages them in their learning.
- Children are enthusiastic learners who are developing good communication and language skills. As a result, children are communicative and confident during their interactions with the childminder.
- The childminder effectively promotes children's emotional well-being. She has established very close and secure relationships with the children she cares for. As a result, they are very happy and settled in her company.
- Children enjoy a wide range of outdoor activities and visits to places of interest. As a result, they learn about their local community and their physical development and well-being are met.
- The childminder has a good understanding of the safeguarding and welfare requirements. She successfully implements a range of policies and procedures to help keep children safe and to promote their well-being.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The childminder does not always gather in-depth information from parents about children's level of attainment when they first start to attend, in order to support children's progress to the highest levels.
- The childminder does not always fully extend children's thinking and reasoning by skilfully questioning them during activities.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- maximise the opportunities to extend children's thinking and reasoning even further by consistently responding to children during their play
- extend the initial information obtained from parents to include further detail of children's development, in order to plan even more precisely for their continued progress from an early stage.

Inspection activities

- The inspector viewed all areas accessed by the children.
- The inspector observed the childminder's interaction with the children and spoke to her and the children throughout the course of the inspection.
- The inspector looked at and discussed a range of records, policies and procedures with the childminder, including evidence of all household members' suitability.
- The inspector and childminder undertook a joint observation of an activity.

Inspector

Eileen Grimes

Inspection findings

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

The childminder demonstrates a good understanding of the learning and development requirements. She provides a good balance of activities to engage children in the next steps of their learning. As a result, they make good progress. The childminder takes children on visits which are linked to children's interests. For example, she takes children on a visit to a museum to ride on the trams and trains. She extends this into an activity at home. Children make a train and place photographs of themselves on the train. The childminder skilfully challenges and extends children's learning. She constantly talks to the children about what they are doing. However, opportunities to extend thinking and reasoning through effective questioning are occasionally missed. The childminder has established close relationships with parents and keeps them informed about every aspect of their child's care. However, some of the initial information obtained from parents does not include enough detail of children's development, to enable the childminder to plan even more precise next steps in children's learning to maximise their early progress.

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

The childminder provides a secure environment for children to play safely. Opportunities for children to be independent are promoted well in practical and everyday routines. The storage of the resources and equipment enables children to make independent choices about what they want to do, for example, as they access board games to play before lunch. Children benefit from the calm and caring disposition of the childminder who uses a positive approach to manage children's behaviour. Her consistent praise and continual reassurance has a positive impact on children's emotional well-being. The childminder takes children to large group activities to meet other children. As a result, they learn to tolerate others, and learn to share and take turns. These activities help to prepare children in readiness for school. Children understand the importance of maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Their individual dietary needs are met through the provision of wholesome home-cooked meals and snacks. The childminder encourages children to wash their hands and discusses why cleaning their hands is important. Consequently, children learn good hygiene practices.

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

The childminder monitors her educational provision to ensure all areas of learning are covered. She tracks children's development, through the detailed and thorough observations and assessments. These allow her to identify areas where children may need further support or challenge. As a result any early intervention is identified to allow her to close any gaps in children's development. The childminder reflects on her practice, using this reflection to identify any areas for improvement and further development. She has completed a level 3 childcare qualification, to enhance her practice and understanding of learning styles. This has had a positive impact on the learning experiences she offers children.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY464191
Local authority	Durham
Inspection number	941767
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	1
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 2013 and lives in Ouston near Chester le Street. The childminder holds a childcare qualification at level 3. She operates all year round from 7am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, except bank holidays and family holidays.

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