

Inspection date	14 April 2015
Previous inspection date	11 January 2010

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 provides a wide range of exciting and stimulating activities for children. They make very good progress, as a result of her good quality teaching and care.
- Teaching is very good and the childminder builds on children's learning well so that they make very good progress.
- Parents are very involved in supporting children's learning and development. The childminder exchanges information with parents each day and guides them in their support of their children's next steps in learning. She welcomes their comments and suggestions on her provision.
- Children are safe, because the childminder implements effective safeguarding policies and practice and supervises children vigilantly. Children's health is well protected through good hygiene practices.
- Children are very happy and settled in the welcoming, family environment. Their individual needs are fully met as the childminder shares daily information and works with parents to provide consistency in children's routines.
- The childminder monitors and evaluates her provision effectively and strives for continuous improvement. She works very well with other early years providers, in order to maintain good quality provision.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The childminder does not observe very young children's play precisely enough, in order to gain more focused insight into how they learn.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- refine the systems for assessing children's learning to provide more detailed information about the progress of all groups of children, such as focusing on the understanding of babies and toddlers as they learn to follow instructions.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the childminder's home, both inside and in the garden.
- The inspector spoke to the childminder and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the childminder.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents, carers and children, including those expressed in recent letters.

Inspector

Catherine Sharkey

Inspection findings

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

The childminder obtains detailed information about what children already know and can do. She records her observations and links them effectively to the learning and development requirements. As a result, she plans a wealth of exciting activities, which build on children's individual next steps in learning. However, observations are sometimes not focused enough to obtain precise information about very young children's understanding of simple instructions. This is to enable them to fully build on their own learning styles. Children make very good progress, because the childminder makes regular assessments to measure this, which she shares with parents. She builds on children's learning through all their routines and activities. She takes many opportunities to support them in their use of counting and mathematical skills. The childminder has very effective links with the nurseries and schools children move to, so she finds out how best to prepare them. This means they gain the skills so they are ready for the next stage in their learning. Children thoroughly enjoy playing with sand and water in the sunshine. The childminder guides their play skilfully, as they fill and empty containers and mix water into the sand. Children decorate their sandcastles imaginatively with the shells they find hidden in the sand. They use a wide range of spades, brushes and containers as they play. They learn about the life cycle of a butterfly through first-hand experiences and through familiar stories.

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

Children play happily together, as the childminder teaches them to have good manners and to be kind to each other. She teaches them to keep themselves safe, as she reminds them to be careful not to get sand in their eyes. Children grow tomatoes and potatoes, and learn about making healthy food choices. The childminder encourages children to manage their personal care routines independently, so that they are very well prepared for nursery. Children are emotionally secure and really enjoy being with the childminder, as she is very caring and makes learning fun. She prepares children well for their moves to nursery and school so that they know what to expect. She praises children frequently so that they gain confidence and good self-esteem.

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

The childminder has a very good awareness of child protection and safeguarding and she ensures the premises are safe for children to use. She monitors and evaluates her provision very effectively with the help of a local development officer. She reflects on her teaching and its impact on children's learning in relation to their next steps each week. The childminder is very well motivated and attends regular training courses, in order to improve her own knowledge and children's learning experiences. She is studying for a Foundation Degree, which has had a very positive impact on her practice. The childminder has very good links with the other settings that children attend, so that their learning is complemented very effectively.

Setting details

Unique reference number	259749
Local authority	Walsall
Inspection number	867158
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 11
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	5
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	11 January 2010
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 2001. She operates all year round, from 7.30am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder holds a childcare qualification at level 4.

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