

Inspection date	21 April 2015
Previous inspection date	26 November 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 quality of the teaching by the childminder and her assistant is very good. Older children are effectively taught to recognise letters and sounds, successfully helping them to develop early literacy skills.
- The childminder establishes strong effective partnerships with parents and other early years providers. This supports continuity of care, which promotes children's individual learning and development.
- The childminder makes effective use of observations and assessment to plan play activities and practical experiences. She effectively challenges children to ensure they make good progress in their learning.
- Children have warm and affectionate relationships with the childminder and her assistants. They have opportunities to develop their social skills and establish strong relationships as they play and learn together. This helps to prepare them for moving onto nursery or school.
- The childminder and her assistant confidently identify the signs and symptoms of abuse and know how to contact the relevant authorities if they have concerns about a child.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Occasionally, activities are too adult focused and children do not always have uninterrupted time to independently play and explore.
- Independent free-play opportunities in the outdoors focus mainly in supporting children to develop their social and physical skills.

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 experiences for children by providing even more opportunities where they are able to plan and lead their own play
- extend the use of the outdoor play area to match the already good learning experiences indoors, so that children develop an even wider range of skills, for example, by providing books and more writing materials.

Inspection activities

- The inspector talked with children and observed activities inside and outdoors.
- The inspector checked evidence of the suitability and qualifications of the childminder and all assistants.
- The inspector held discussions and conducted a joint observation with the childminder and her assistant.
- The inspector looked at a wide range of documentation. This included relevant policies and procedures, observations and assessments on children, planning documents and accident and medication records.
- The inspector took account of the opinions of parents, carers and other childcare providers, taking these views into account.

Inspector

Janice Caryl

Inspection findings

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

The childminder has a good knowledge and understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage. She plans activities indoors to promote all areas of learning. Children learn about life cycles and take great delight in sharing their baby photographs on an interactive display. They learn about how plants, herbs and vegetables grow. This provides a good sensory experience as children feel and smell the herbs before planting them. Younger children enjoy watching the older ones and learn from them. For example, they play with the large magnifying sheets, look at bugs and then have fun peering through them at other people and objects. The range of activities provided is broad. The childminder and her assistant teach children to learn positional language. Children take delight in putting their toys in places suggested by the childminder, such as 'behind' them or 'under' the table. They learn to be attentive as they follow the childminder's instructions while playing listening games. Children also enjoy and benefit from the physical activity involved in the game. They are kept very busy with the planned activities that require adult input. However, this gives children less time to freely explore activities of their own choice.

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

Children show that they have established good relationships with the childminder and her assistant by being self-assured and confident. The childminder works closely with parents to ensure care routines match the needs of all children. She sensitively attends to any children who are hurt or tired. As a result, children's emotional and physical well-being is appropriately fostered. The childminder meets children's individual dietary needs with fresh, healthy meals and snacks. She teaches children about the benefits of eating healthily and they demonstrate their understanding as they discuss which foods are good for them. The childminder concentrates on teaching children self-care skills, so that they become independent. Children learn about the benefits of exercise as they enjoy fresh air in the childminder's garden. The garden is spacious and suitably equipped with lots of toys and equipment, such as bicycles, balls, hoops and a climbing frame. However, there are fewer resources outside to match those available indoors, which cover all areas of learning.

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

The childminder and her assistants work well as a team. Her recruitment procedures ensure that all assistants are suitably experienced and vetted through the Disclosure and Barring Service check system. The childminder carries out supervision sessions, enabling personal and professional discussions to take place. Children are effectively monitored to ensure they are making good progress in their learning. They benefit as the well-qualified childminder keeps her practice up to date through attending relevant training. The childminder identifies and minimises potential risks to children through effective risk assessment procedures. She takes into account what parents and children like about her service by regularly consulting with them. This results in good quality provision.

Setting details

Unique reference number	312646
Local authority	Middlesbrough
Inspection number	868099
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	12
Number of children on roll	7
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	26 November 2009
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 1996 and lives in Acklam, Middlesbrough. She operates all year round from 8am to 5.30pm, Monday to Thursday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder works with assistants. She holds a relevant National Vocational Qualification at Level 3. The childminder provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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