

Childminder Report

Inspection date

21 April 2015

Previous inspection date

27 February 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

- Partnerships with other settings are well established. This means that children benefit from consistency and continuity in their care and learning.
- The childminder provides activities that support children's learning and development well. As a result, children are making good progress and gaining the skills they need in readiness for school.
- The childminder effectively safeguards and protects the children from any potential harm. This is because she takes all reasonable steps to maintain a safe and hazard-free learning environment.
- The childminder is competent, caring and meets children's individual needs. Consequently, children are very happy, confident and settled in her care.
- The childminder demonstrates a strong commitment to the continuous development of her service, through ongoing self-evaluation.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The childminder does not always make the most of the outdoor environment.
- Children's independence during play is not fully maximised because they cannot always see what resources are available.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance the outdoor learning environment, for example, by adding more natural resources to encourage children to investigate and explore
- increase opportunities for children to make independent choices, for example, by displaying pictures and words on storage boxes that contain toys and resources.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the childminder's house and talked with the childminder and the children.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents through their written feedback.
- The inspector looked at children's records, planning documentation, evidence of the suitability of household members and a range of other documentation, including policies and procedures.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the childminder.

Inspector

Julie Campbell

Inspection findings

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

The childminder teaches the children well and provides a good range of activities to promote children's learning and development. She uses effective observations to plan challenging activities that cover the seven areas of learning. Children are excited to explore malleable materials and enjoy using tools and equipment to make animals. The childminder uses opportunities to extend language by repeating back words and constantly talking with the children. As a result, children are making good progress in their language development. Parents are kept well informed about their children's achievements. The childminder gathers a wealth of information from parents about children's starting points and information about what they are doing at home. Children have free access to a wide range of toys and resources. However, because the boxes are not clearly labelled, children do not know what is inside them to support them in making informed, independent choices.

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

The childminder successfully supports children's physical development and well-being through regular access to an outdoor area. The door to the garden remains open and children can choose to be indoors or outside. The childminder supports children to minimise possible safety risks. For example, the childminder sensitively reminds children how to negotiate the step into the garden. Children enjoy their time in the garden, climbing on slides and climbing frames. However, resources in the garden do not enable children to explore and investigate the natural world. Children develop warm bonds and emotional attachments with the childminder; they enjoy her praise and consistent reassurance. Children's behaviour is very good and is managed effectively as the childminder responds appropriately to the age of children. Regular trips to toddler groups and daily visits to the local nursery to collect other children develop children's social skills and confidence. This means that children are developing the emotional security needed to help them cope with moving on to other settings and school, when the time comes.

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

The childminder has a good knowledge of safeguarding procedures and follows these to ensure children are kept safe. The well-qualified childminder has a good understanding of the learning and development requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. Systems for evaluating practice are good. She has completed an Ofsted self-evaluation form and has identified future improvements that have a positive impact on children's learning. For example, the childminder identifies and addresses her own training needs to ensure that she keeps up to date with current practice. Parents are very happy with the service the childminder provides. They comment that the environment is 'fantastic' and that the childminder has 'helped my child develop'. The childminder routinely assesses the children's progress and shares this information with parents. This helps them understand and support children's learning at home.

Setting details

Unique reference number	305908
Local authority	Stockton on Tees
Inspection number	867634
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	8
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	27 February 2009
Telephone number	

The childminder registered in 1989 and lives in the Yarm area of Stockton on Tees. She operates all year round, from 7.30am to 5.30pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder holds a qualification at level 3.

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