

Childminder Report

Inspection date

27 April 2015

Previous inspection date

28 April 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		Outstanding	1
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 active and inquisitive learners, who enjoy their play. The childminder provides fun, high quality learning experiences for children, that reflect their interests and learning styles. She continually extends children's knowledge during conversations and activities. As a result, all children make good progress and acquire a wealth of skills, required for the next stage in learning.
- Children's independence is promoted exceptionally well. They make their own decisions about the toys they are interested in playing with, choosing from the wide range that are easily accessible both inside and outdoors. Children learn excellent self-care skills through the daily routine, including helping with snack preparation.
- Children's emotional well-being is especially well supported by the childminder. She collaborates well with parents and puts excellent settling-in procedures in place. Therefore, children quickly become accustomed to their new environment and routines and are extremely happy in her care.
- Partnerships with parents are especially good. The childminder uses various ways to ensure that they stay fully informed of children's activities and progress. Parents appreciate how the childminder is dedicated to providing high-quality care and exciting experiences for all their children.
- The childminder demonstrates a strong understanding of how to protect and safeguard children. Through the implementation of good policies and procedures, she actively promotes children's safety and welfare.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The childminder does not consistently obtain precise information from parents with regard to what older children already know and can do when they start attending her setting.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- request more precise information from parents regarding older children's starting points in the primary areas of learning, in order to further enrich the planning process.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the rooms where children play and in the garden.
- The inspector spoke with the childminder and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector looked at activity planning, records of children's learning and a selection of policies and records.
- The inspector checked evidence of the suitability and qualifications of the childminder and viewed her self-evaluation and improvement plan.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents provided through information included in the childminder's own parent survey and written testimonials.

Inspector

Lindsey Cullum

Inspection findings

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

The childminder works tirelessly to provide stimulating activities for all children. She frequently takes children on exciting outings, enhancing their learning experiences. Children recall with excitement the wonderful visits, shared with the childminder. She uses good teaching techniques, such as demonstrating, explaining and questioning, to encourage children to think and talk about what they are doing. For example, as they make dough, the childminder talks about the ingredients used and questions what children think might happen when oil is added to flour. Consequently, children are engaged and concentrate for extended periods. Mathematical language, counting and shape recognition are threaded throughout activities. The childminder teaches children about the world around them as they find snails or bugs and help to feed birds in the garden. They follow the life cycle of frogs and plant seeds, to learn about how plants and flowers grow. This means children develop a sense of respect and responsibility towards the natural world. The childminder makes ongoing assessments of children's progress and encourages parents to contribute their own observations. However, not all parents are consulted about children's prior learning when they start, to precisely inform initial planning.

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

The childminder provides a caring and nurturing environment, where children are exceptionally happy and settled. Children play and learn together extremely well and their behaviour is exemplary. The childminder works closely with parents to support children's emotional development and constantly celebrates their achievements with enthusiastic praise. This effectively boosts children's confidence and self-esteem. Clear explanations and consistent reminders ensure that children learn how to keep themselves safe. For example, the childminder teaches children how to safely handle small knives while helping to prepare their own snack. The childminder makes excellent use of the garden for children's learning. Therefore, children are eager to play outside in the fresh air. They are physically active, explore natural materials, build, play imaginatively or sit with a book in the wigwam to relax. These superb experiences support children exceptionally well in developing the skills that they need to adopt a healthy lifestyle.

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

The well-qualified childminder is highly committed to her own professional development. She completes regular training and attends workshops on specific areas of practice, to further enhance her good skills. She also seeks the views of parents and children as part of her ongoing self-evaluation. As a result, the provision for children is continually improving. Practice is well-documented and policies, including safeguarding procedures, are effectively implemented and shared with parents. The childminder works very well with other settings the children attend, so all those involved in the children's learning and development share information. As a result, children are supported to make good progress in preparation for their move to nursery or school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	255983
Local authority	Norfolk
Inspection number	866990
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	9
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	28 April 2009
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 1991 and lives in Costessey, Norfolk. She operates all year round from 7.30am to 5pm, Monday to Friday, except bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder holds an appropriate childcare qualification at level 4.

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