

Childminder Report

Inspection date

1 May 2015

Previous inspection date

3 May 2011

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 has effective partnerships with other providers and agencies. They work well together to support children's individual development and to prepare them for school.
- Children are secure and happy in the care of the childminder. They benefit from a wide range of activities that promote interest and development. Children develop good levels of concentration, which is a firm foundation for future learning.
- Parents and early years practitioners provide very positive feedback on the childminder's practice. They recommend her 'flexible and reliable care' and describe a 'warm, loving home from home'.
- The childminder reflects on her provision well and takes positive steps to develop her childcare knowledge. She securely meets the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. Consequently, children are safe and well cared for.
- The childminder provides good support and close supervision for children. She is aware of children's individual interests and uses this knowledge well in her planning. She improves her provision by increasing the resources and play experiences for children.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The childminder does not always fully extend children's mathematical understanding in play.
- Information for parents about children's progress does not include specific ideas for home activities, to support learning further.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- increase mathematical challenges to children to help them count and calculate more frequently
- involve parents more effectively in helping children at home to reach their next steps.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the childminder and children in their indoor activities.
- The inspector held discussions with the childminder.
- The inspector read feedback from parents and an early years practitioner.
- The inspector sampled children's information records.
- The inspector checked required documentation and safety of the premises.

Inspector

Julie Wright

Inspection findings

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

Children enjoy their activities and focus well. The childminder provides a good variety of play materials, with messy play being very popular. For example, children mix corn flour, water and food colouring to make an interesting solution. They manipulate dough to create various shapes and objects, such as replica food items. The childminder demonstrates how to do something to help children learn. They have lively conversations as they play, which creates a pleasant atmosphere. The childminder asks questions and encourages children to count in sequence. However, she sometimes misses the opportunity to extend the activity, to help children work out a simple subtraction. The childminder promotes children's communication and language development well throughout activities. For instance, a conversation about the weather prompts a spontaneous song. The childminder provides information for parents about their children's activities and progress. However, information is not always clear about how parents can reinforce children's learning at home.

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

The childminder promotes children's safety with the use of age-appropriate equipment and relevant guidance. For example, she has reins for younger children and teaches older children to 'stop, look and listen' at the roadside. Children have warm relationships with the childminder and behave well. They learn about the natural world and enjoy exercise, for example, when they walk up the lane to see farm animals. The childminder involves children in caring for the family pets, helping them develop caring attitudes. These activities contribute to children's understanding of good health and hygiene routines. For instance, children know to 'wash hands after touching animals'. The childminder meets children's individual needs well, so children remain happy and content during the day.

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

Since the last inspection, the childminder has improved her assessment of children's progress. This reflects a more effective self-evaluation procedure, which addresses the previous recommendation. The childminder refreshes her childcare knowledge with relevant information from the internet. She meets with other early years providers at their briefing sessions to discuss professional practice. The childminder also gains up-to-date information from her assistant, who is working towards a relevant childcare qualification. They work together well to provide additional support for children. The childminder demonstrates clear responsibility for children's welfare. She supervises her assistant and checks their awareness of her safeguarding policy and child protection procedures.

Setting details

Unique reference number	102724
Local authority	Cornwall
Inspection number	835657
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	5
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	3 May 2011
Telephone number	

The childminder registered in 2000. She lives with her husband and two children in the village of Dobwalls, near Liskeard. The childminder employs her eldest daughter as a part-time assistant. She provides care to children each weekday during term time and school holidays.

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