

Childminder Report

Inspection date

27 April 2015

Previous inspection date

26 January 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 childminder plans well for children's next steps and interests. She appreciates that children learn best from a balance of free play and play that is guided by an adult.
- Children make very good progress in their communication and language development. They are articulate and speak confidently to visitors. The childminder always speaks to the children and offers a running commentary for what they are doing.
- Children develop strong emotional bonds with the childminder. They seek her out for cuddles when they have a bump and hold out their arms to be picked up when they wake from a nap.
- Children benefit greatly from outdoor play every day. The garden looks out over open fields and as a result, children learn about the importance of fresh air and they can exercise freely.
- The childminder effectively safeguards children from harm. She fully understands the signs and symptoms of abuse. She is also well aware of the procedure to follow if she has any concerns about a child in her care.
- The childminder places high priority on her continuous professional development. She has accessed a number of courses and workshops. As a result, she has a commitment to improving outcomes for children in her care.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The childminder does not fully encourage parents to share what they know their child can do at home.
- The childminder does not precisely track children's progress over time.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- extend the methods to encourage parents to be more actively involved in their children's learning and development, for example, by asking them to continually share information about what their child achieves at home
- develop the tracking of children's progress to enable a precise assessment of each child's development over time, so that they make the very best possible progress.

Inspection activities

- The inspector viewed all areas used by the children.
- The inspector spoke to the childminder and children at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the childminder.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents expressed in written testimonials.
- The inspector looked at children's records and assessments, the childminder's self-evaluation document and a sample of policies and procedures.
- The inspector checked evidence of the suitability of the childminder.

Inspector

Sharon Alleary

Inspection findings

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

The qualified childminder understands child development and she uses good teaching techniques. Consequently, children make good progress. The childminder sits alongside children as they play in the sand, she shows them how to make a sandcastle. The children pat down the sand and then watch as the sandcastle emerges from under the bucket. Children begin to learn care and concern for living things when they feed the chickens. This develops an understanding of nature through first-hand experiences. Children use a selection of writing tools to create a large-scale picture. They draw recognisable faces, adding a nose, mouth and eyes. This helps develop their early-writing skills. Consequently, they are gaining useful skills in readiness for school. Parents regularly look at their children's learning records. The childminder shares children's next steps for learning and ideas for parents to support and encourage these at home. However, there are fewer opportunities for parents to regularly share information about what their child achieves at home to support children's ongoing learning.

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

The childminder offers flexible settling-in sessions for children. She encourages parents to visit with their children to discuss routines, likes and dislikes. This gradual approach ensures children settle in their own time. Children demonstrate a sense of pride in their artwork. They eagerly point out their St George's flag displayed in the childminder's home. The childminder supports children to develop their independence by encouraging them to have a go at doing things for themselves. For instance, children try to put on their shoes in readiness for going outdoors. The childminder regularly goes on outings and visits local groups. As a result, children develop their personal and social skills. The childminder teaches children to understand some rules and boundaries. The childminder is calm and patient and she discusses consequences of unwanted behaviour. For instance, she explains to them, 'if you climb on the furniture you might fall and bang your head'.

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

The childminder has a good understanding of the safeguarding and welfare requirements. Children play safely in the childminder's home. This is because she has considered immediate risks and hazards, and taken steps to minimise them. In addition, the childminder carries out a daily risk assessment and a monthly safety check. The childminder monitors children's progress as she conducts regular observations and summaries of their learning. However, the tracking of children's progress is not always precise to assess children's progress over time to identify any specific gaps in learning. Parents give high praise to the service they receive from the childminder. Comments include, 'she is my guardian angel' and 'she is a fantastic example of how children should be brought up'. The childminder liaises well with other settings children attend. This ensures children benefit from continuity in their care and learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	208688
Local authority	Lincolnshire
Inspection number	871181
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	26 January 2009
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 1994 and lives in Harlaxton, Lincolnshire. She operates all year round, from 7.45am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder has a childcare qualification at level 3.

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Piccadilly Gate
Store St
Manchester
M1 2WD

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