

Childminder Report

Inspection date

30 April 2015

Previous inspection date

15 August 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		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

- Teaching is good. The childminder regularly observes and monitors children's development. She tracks children's progress, which enables her to provide learning opportunities that successfully extend their learning. Consequently, all children make good progress, taking into consideration their starting points.
- Children form exceptional strong bonds with the childminder. She is highly skilled and sensitive in helping children to form secure emotional attachments with her. This means children's confidence and emotional well-being are very well supported.
- The childminder provides a warm, welcoming environment where children feel safe and secure. She offers consistent and high levels of praise and encouragement to children, which develops their confidence and self-esteem and motivates them to participate in activities. This effectively supports their all-round development and emotional well-being.
- Children's safety is promoted well. The childminder has a secure knowledge of child protection issues and reviews risks in her environment to ensure children's well-being is effectively promoted.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Children are not always given sufficient time to respond to questions. This results in an occasional missed opportunity for children to develop their thinking skills.
- Children are not always provided with opportunities to extend their mathematical skills further.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen questioning skills by ensuring that children are always given enough time to think and respond with their answers
- extend children's mathematical skills by providing more opportunities for children to count, compare, sort and categorise objects.

Inspection activities

- The inspector viewed the premises, indoors and outside.
- The inspector observed and talked with children and the childminder at appropriate times throughout the morning.
- The inspector held discussions and conducted a joint observation with the childminder.
- The inspector checked evidence of the childminder's qualifications and the suitability of all household members.
- The inspector viewed a wide range of files and documents, including relevant policies and procedures, observation and tracking documents, risk assessments and accident and medication documents.

Inspector

Maureen Sheekey

Inspection findings

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

The childminder helps children to learn through well-organised activities that keep them interested and engaged. For example, children enjoy filling buckets with water and then pouring it down a channel. During the activity, the childminder follows children's interests when they choose to take the activity in a different direction. She uses good teaching techniques and effective questioning to prompt children to think, but sometimes offers her own solutions before they can consider what to do next. The childminder interacts well with the children, she plays alongside them, offering guidance and support. However, she misses opportunities to build on children's good counting skills. For example, at snack time, children are not encouraged to count items, such as the grapes they having. The childminder has very good systems in place for observing, assessing and tracking children's progress across all areas of learning. Children have good opportunities to develop their physical skills, playing outside and during outings to the local park.

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

Children are exceptionally secure, settled and very happy with the kind and caring childminder. Children's behaviour is excellent for such young children. They use their manners well and ask politely for further resources as they understand what is expected from them. They engage exceptionally well with the childminder, laughing and having fun in a respectful manner as she skilfully builds their confidence and self-esteem. The childminder clearly loves her role and she is very proud of the children and the progress they make. She teaches them how to keep themselves safe and they are developing an excellent understanding about how to manage risks and challenges, relative to their age and abilities. For example, they are able to recall how they cross the road safely. Relationships with children and their families are outstanding. The childminder effectively involves parents in their children's learning and makes very close links with home to provide a consistent approach to their ongoing development.

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

The well-qualified childminder has a very good understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage. She uses this good knowledge to plan for and monitor children's good progress. The childminder monitors all children's progress regularly. This enables her to see immediately any developing gaps in progress and to implement targeted professional support. Her strong focus on her own professional development means she is able to improve her skills, therefore, the provision for children. Parents comment very highly of the childminder and the care and learning their children receive. The childminder has in place effective systems for the evaluation of her practice, including feedback from parents. The childminder has established good links with local schools. She shares information and invites teachers to visit the children in her home before they start school. The childminder regularly reviews her assistant's practice. She ensures that any training she attends is shared to continually develop practice.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY418858
Local authority	Durham
Inspection number	851960
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	4
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	15 August 2011
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 2010 and lives in Shotton. She operates all year round from 8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, except bank holidays and family holidays. She holds a level 3 childcare qualification.

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