

Childminder Report

Inspection date	6 May 2015
Previous inspection date	12 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

- Children have lots of opportunities to make choices about what they do, and to lead their own learning. As a result, they are motivated, eager to learn and make good progress.
- Children play in a stimulating learning environment, and spend quality time in the local community to enhance their learning.
- The childminder works efficiently with her assistant to provide children with close support and reassurance, and to meet their individual needs.
- The childminder places a high priority on helping children to gain independence skills. This helps children to be confident and emotionally prepared for the next stage in their learning.
- Children are kept safe because the childminder and her assistant have a good understanding of how to protect them from harm. They have both completed safeguarding training and are qualified in paediatric first aid. The childminder successfully identifies and minimises potential risks to children.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Although children make good progress, the childminder does not focus assessments sharply enough to plan precisely for children's next steps in learning, in order to promote their rapid progress.
- Partnerships with other providers where children attend are variable. This means that planning for some of children's learning is not always informed by a knowledge of what they learn elsewhere.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance assessment and monitoring arrangements by using even more sharply focused assessments to plan very precisely for children's next steps in learning
- strengthen the arrangements for sharing information, and enhance partnership working with other settings that children attend, in order to even more effectively support children's learning and development.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the childminder's home.
- The inspector spoke to the childminder, her assistant and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the childminder.
- The inspector looked at children's records, suitability documentation and a range of other documentation, including policies and procedures.
- The inspector took account of the written views of parents.

Inspector

Ann Lee

Inspection findings

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

The childminder provides children with a well-organised environment and a good variety of easily accessible resources. Teaching is good. The childminder and her assistant understand how children learn. They successfully adapt play opportunities to meet the needs of a variety of age groups. The childminder encourages children's speaking and listening skills. She engages in conversations about their interests and allows sufficient time for their responses. The childminder teaches children to begin to make links between letters and sounds. Children learn about shapes and numbers as they play together with building bricks. These interactions effectively promote children's early literacy and mathematical skills, in preparation for their move on to school. The childminder monitors children's ongoing learning and development, in order to identify any gaps in their progress. However, assessments are not sharply focused enough to ensure that plans are precisely targeted, to enable children to consistently make rapid progress in all areas of learning.

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

Children are happy and settled in the childminder's home. She is calm and treats them with kindness, which helps to promote children's self-esteem. Children's behaviour is good. The childminder gives children consistent boundaries and praises good behaviour. She encourages children to be considerate and tolerant to one another. Older children, in conjunction with the childminder, develop a set of rules to be followed while at the childminder's home. This helps them to feel respected and develops a sense of belonging. Children's good health is successfully promoted. The childminder encourages parents to send healthy snacks and meals for their children. Children benefit from plenty of opportunities to get fresh air and be physically active. For example, they walk to and from school and pre-school, play in the garden and frequently visit local parks. Young children enjoy regular visits to the library and toddler groups, which effectively supports them to develop confidence in different social situations.

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

The childminder and her assistant have a good knowledge of the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. The childminder manages the business side of her provision well, to ensure that all required documentation is in place and well maintained. The childminder is committed to providing good-quality care and learning, and routinely reflects on all aspects of her provision. She has successfully addressed all recommendations from her last inspection. The childminder monitors the work of her assistant well, providing ongoing support and training to improve practice. The childminder has developed a good working partnership with parents. They are kept regularly informed of their children's progress. However, partnerships with other early years settings that children attend are not sufficiently developed to maximise children's progress.

Setting details

Unique reference number	220863
Local authority	Northamptonshire
Inspection number	864244
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	12
Number of children on roll	16
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	12 February 2009
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 1990 and lives in Northampton. She works with her husband, who is her assistant. The childminder operates all year round from 7.30am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays.

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