

Childminder Report

Inspection date

8 May 2015

Previous inspection date

10 March 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 are very happy and settled in the welcoming, family environment. Their individual needs are fully met as the childminder shares daily information and works effectively with parents to provide consistency in children's routines.
- Teaching is good as the childminder plans activities to encourage children to develop key skills for future learning, in readiness for starting nursery or school.
- The childminder provides a good range of toys and resources to meet the interests, needs and learning of all the ages of children who attend her setting.
- Children relish the opportunity to choose between indoor and outdoor play. The childminder has put considerable thought into improving her outdoor play provision to provide children with a wealth of opportunities to develop and learn.
- Children are effectively safeguarded. The childminder has a very clear understanding of the procedures to follow should she have concerns about a child in her care. Robust health and safety checks ensure children are kept safe on the premises and on outings.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The childminder does not always give children sufficient time to respond to questions, or to explore new words, in order to develop their thinking and speaking skills even further.
- Mealtimes are not always efficiently organised and this means young children sometimes become restless and less focused when eating.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- extend the opportunities to introduce new words during activities and give children more time to respond when asking questions, to fully promote their critical thinking and expressive language skills
- enhance the organisation of mealtimes to encourage children to consistently develop important social skills, such as positive behaviour and good table manners, while eating.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the indoor and outdoor learning environments and looked around the premises.
- The inspector held discussions with the childminder about the children's progress and achievements.
- The inspector viewed the children's development records.
- The inspector saw evidence of the suitability and qualifications of the childminder and her family, self-evaluation, risk assessment and policies and procedures.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents from references obtained by the childminder.

Inspector

Patricia Champion

Inspection findings

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

The childminder has a secure knowledge of how children learn. She encourages children to extend their interests and explore and discover new things. For example, children investigate dry and wet sand with a variety of containers or construction toys. Children's language development is generally well promoted. During adult-led activities, the childminder plays alongside children and uses sign language and effective questioning skills to gather interesting answers from the children. However, during the activities that children choose for themselves, the childminder sometimes misses opportunities to introduce them to a wider range of vocabulary. In addition, she does not consistently give children time to think and respond before offering any support that they may need. The childminder has good relationships with the parents. She ensures that they are kept well informed of their children's development through written and electronic communication, discussion and by providing photographs of their children at play. As a result, this promotes continuity of care and learning.

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

The childminder ensures that the environment is safe, clean and clutter free to prevent accidents and promote children's welfare. Children have good opportunities to socialise with others as the childminder takes them to local toddler groups or they visit the school playgrounds. This helps to prepare them emotionally for the move from her childminding environment to somewhere new. The childminder understands the importance of healthy lifestyles. Children have many opportunities for exercise and developing their coordination. The childminder provides children with nutritious snacks and drinks. They have good opportunities to develop their independence skills, as they help to prepare snacks by chopping bananas or strawberries. However, the childminder has not fully established successful strategies for encouraging responsible behaviour at mealtimes. As a result, children sometimes walk around while eating, rather than remain sitting at the table.

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

The childminder is highly qualified and continues to seek additional training to build on her knowledge and skills. Both the childminder and her assistant hold current first-aid certificates. In addition, the assistant is now working towards a recognised early years qualification. This has a very positive impact on the standards of care and education they provide. The childminder understands her responsibility to meet the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. She rigorously checks children's progress to ensure they are moving forward in their development. The childminder ensures that she identifies children's achievements using her supporting documentation. Therefore, she can clearly see how children are progressing and where they may need additional support. The childminder evaluates her setting taking account of the views of those who use it. She monitors the practice of her assistant and sets herself targets for improvement. The recommendation from the last inspection has successfully been addressed.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY379847
Local authority	Southend on Sea
Inspection number	858564
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	10
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	10 March 2009
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 2008 and lives in Westcliff-on-Sea. She sometimes works with an assistant. The childminder works all year round, from 8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. She holds an early years qualification at level 5. The childminder is a member of a childminding network and provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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