

Childminder Report

Inspection date

6 May 2015

Previous inspection date

20 November 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		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

- The childminder gives the utmost priority to making sure that she does all she can to provide good-quality individual care, right from the start. As a result, children are extremely confident, happy and settled.
- The childminder is highly effective in supporting children to adopt a healthy lifestyle. For instance, children who are reluctant to eat healthy foods are taught how to grow fruit and vegetables. They help prepare nutritious meals and they are sensitively encouraged to taste a wide range of food. As a result, all children have hearty appetites and thoroughly enjoy mealtimes.
- The childminder extends her knowledge and understanding in a variety of ways. This includes attending training and being part of an accredited network. She is in the process of gaining a higher level qualification in childcare, which has a positive impact on her developing effective teaching skills.
- The childminder effectively uses the process of self-evaluation to identify strengths and areas she wishes to improve that will benefit the children. For example, she plans to develop the outside space, to include more investigation and exploration experiences.
- The childminder identifies what children need to learn next using detailed observations. She plans challenging experiences to close any gaps in their learning, which enables all children to make good progress.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The childminder does not yet offer more precise information and guidance for parents, to fully contribute to children's assessments and extend the learning at home.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- introduce more ways for parents to contribute to their child's ongoing assessment, and provide engaging ways to enable them to support learning at home.

Inspection activities

- The inspector looked at a range of policies and procedures, self-evaluation records, the childminder's improvement plan and evidence of suitability and qualifications.
- The inspector observed activities in the indoor play areas, and checked other indoor and outdoor areas used by the children.
- The inspector conducted a joint review of an activity with the childminder, and held discussions with the childminder throughout the inspection.
- The inspector took into account the views of the children and parents spoken to on the day.
- The inspector looked at the childminder's assessment and planning for children's learning and developmental progress.

Inspector

Sharron Fogarty-Martin

Inspection findings

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

The childminder effectively supports children's learning through good teaching and high levels of interaction. Children like using their senses to explore a variety of natural resources. They hold shells to their ear to 'hear the sea' and line them up according to size. The childminder listens carefully to children during activities, so that she can skilfully question them in order to improve their learning. Children enjoy transferring coloured pebbles into different size containers while the childminder helps them to count out how many, and to work out if they will fit. She seizes on opportunities to introduce new words to extend children's vocabulary. The childminder organises resources well to enable children to make choices about what they want to play with. Children snuggle with her to share a book and listen to each other's heart beat when playing doctors.

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

The childminder is extremely caring, sensitive and skilled in helping children to develop secure emotional attachments. This enables children to develop high levels of self-confidence and nurtures their overall well-being. Children's physical needs are extremely well met. The childminder's large garden gives children plenty of space to be physically active. They enjoy the freedom of being able to dig, climb, kick balls, ride bikes and run around. Children regularly socialise and communicate with other children. Planned outings to the park, toddler groups, soft play areas and the library, mean children learn to develop independence in group situations. This prepares them very well for their next stage in their learning, in readiness for starting at school. Children successfully learn how to manage their own personal hygiene needs and know to use their own towel after they wash their hands.

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

The childminder has a good awareness of the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. She maintains an up-to-date knowledge of child protection and has recently completed first-aid training. She effectively works with other agencies, and is aware of the procedures to follow should she have concerns over the safety of a child in her care. The childminder has developed a good relationship with parents and they speak highly of her. They greatly appreciate the caring approach she brings to her role and comment she is like a second mother to their child. Parents are well informed about their children's progress. However, parents do not routinely have the opportunity to contribute to their children's ongoing assessments. They are not always provided with effective ways to support learning at home, in order to help their children make even better progress.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY291643
Local authority	Southend on Sea
Inspection number	861412
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	1 - 11
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	7
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	20 November 2009
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 2004. She operates all year round from 7am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder supports children who speak English as an additional language. The childminder provides funded early years education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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