

Childminder Report

Inspection date

18 May 2015

Previous inspection date

13 May 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 welcomes children into her warm and friendly home environment where their all-round development is supported very well.
- The childminder keeps track of the progress children make in their learning and development. She analyses children's assessment information well and provides intervention from external agencies, if required, to meet children's needs.
- The childminder supports children well to develop, an understanding of the importance of a healthy diet. They enjoy activities, such as strawberry picking and make smoothies on their return to the house.
- The childminder maximises children's learning outdoors. She encourages them to develop their early-writing skills, using rolls of paper and paint, when they go on outings. This prepares them well for school, when the time comes.
- The childminder is committed to improving the effectiveness of her practice. She has recently been attending training to help her, identify and support children's individual patterns of play.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The childminder does not provide a wide enough range of resources for very young babies to explore in a variety of ways, to extend their investigation skills further.
- Parents are not always asked to contribute to the initial assessments of children's starting points on entry, in order to obtain a complete picture of a child's development.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- provide a wider range of stimulating and interesting resources for very young children to investigate and use in a variety of different ways, to develop their exploration skills even further
- obtain more detailed information from parents about what children can already do when they first start attending, to inform the initial assessments and promote more rapid progress from the outset.

Inspection activities

- The inspector viewed all parts of the childminder's home used for childminding.
- The inspector observed play and learning activities, and spoke to the childminder and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the childminder.
- The inspector viewed regulatory documentation including evidence of suitability checks, children's details, learning journals, and a sample of policies and procedures.
- The inspector discussed self-evaluation and how this is organised to drive improvements that benefit the children.

Inspector

Nicola Jones

Inspection findings

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

The childminder is well qualified and the quality of her teaching is good. Children's communication skills are supported well. For example, the childminder makes good eye contact and gets down to children's level when talking to them. As a result, very young children begin to produce sounds and make good progress in this area of their learning. The childminder provides a generally good range of toys for children to access. Children are motivated and show a willingness to try things out for themselves. However, too many resources provided have a fixed outcome, and children are not able to explore and investigate them in a variety of ways. For example, when children spin the wheel on the activity table there is only one way to do this. Effective assessment arrangements are in place. The childminder uses this information well to plan activities based on children's next steps in learning. Regular exchange of information, about children's achievements with parents ensures they are kept updated with the progress their child is making. However, the childminder does not effectively obtain information from parents about what children can do when they first start attending, to contribute to her initial assessments and promote rapid progress from the outset.

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

Children are supervised well and the childminder provides high levels of care. This keeps children safe and enables them to explore their surroundings with confidence. The childminder develops strong relationships with children. She meets their physical needs well. For example, she recognises very young children require a drink of water after waking up after a sleep. Independence skills are fostered well. The childminder responds well when parents inform her children are beginning to use a spoon to feed themselves at home. She effectively acts upon this and gives children a spoon to use during mealtimes. This provides continuity and supports children's physical skills well. The childminder supports children well emotionally when they prepare to go to school. She takes children to their new school to familiarise them with their new environment and talks to them about changes to their routine.

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

The childminder understands her role in delivering the Early Years Foundation Stage framework. She maintains a good overview of the activities and experiences she provides, reviewing them regularly to reflect children's interests and stage of development. The childminder has good knowledge of safeguarding and knows what signs and symptoms to look out for to indicate possible abuse. She knows who to contact should she have concerns about a child in her care. Good use is made of questionnaires to gather the views of parents and children. This helps the childminder to identify areas for improvement to improve her provision further and support children's achievements. Future plans include developing the outdoor area to extend opportunities for investigations of the natural world.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY317006
Local authority	Stockton on Tees
Inspection number	862246
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	13
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	13 May 2009
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 2005 and lives in Stockton-on-Tees. She operates all year round from 7.30am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, except bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder holds a relevant childcare qualification at level 3.

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