

Childminder Report

Inspection date

19 May 2015

Previous inspection date

16 July 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 is a well-qualified practitioner, who provides good quality care and learning experiences for children.
- The childminder works effectively in partnership with parents and other settings children attend, to promote continuity in their learning and care.
- The childminder undertakes accurate assessments of children's achievements. She identifies and plans for their next steps in learning. The childminder shares this information with parents, which supports their home learning.
- The childminder is very effective in helping children learn how to pronounce words. She listens very carefully to what they say, and clearly repeats back what they have said correctly.
- The childminder is very calm and relaxed. She helps children to be confident, relaxed and enjoy their time in her care.
- The childminder takes all necessary steps to promote and protect children's health and safety.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The childminder does not always encourage children to fully develop their thinking.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance opportunities for children to build on and practise their thinking skills, for example, by encouraging them to describe their thoughts and ideas about how to complete tasks.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the childminder's lounge, dining room and playroom.
- The inspector spoke to the childminder and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector took into account written feedback from parents, and their views given on the day of the inspection.
- The inspector looked at children's records, and a range of other documentation, including the childminder's self-evaluation, suitability checks, policies and procedures.

Inspector

Christine Armstrong

Inspection findings

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

Children take part in a wide range of activities that help them to make good progress in the seven areas of learning. The childminder knows how to build on children's learning when they attend other settings, such as pre-school. She plans activities to consolidate and extend what children are learning about, such as a topic about baby animals. Children visit the library to choose books. They sit and listen to stories, and are eager to recall and learn new names of different baby animals. Children are creative and imaginative as they move and make noises like animals. Their interest in nature is extended, as they learn the names of a range of flowers and trees on the walk back from pre-school. Children develop a good interest and understanding of the alphabet, numbers, shapes and measurements, as they take part in a wide range of games and complete jigsaws. This helps them to get ready for starting school. The childminder shares her thoughts with children when she is planning how things might be done, such as joining and assembling different materials. However, she does not always encourage older children to take the lead in these discussions. Therefore, children are not always fully challenged to think, make suggestions and explain their own thoughts and ideas.

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

The childminder's home is safe and welcoming, and children clearly enjoy the time they spend in her care. The childminder places a good focus on giving children choices. This helps them to develop good levels of confidence and independence. Children develop good social skills and form strong friendships with other children who attend. They understand that it is fair to take turns and share resources, and this helps them to play cooperatively. Children learn good hygiene routines, and they learn how to keep themselves safe. Children benefit from opportunities to become active outdoors, and they are encouraged to recognise when they feel tired and need to rest.

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

The childminder has a clear understanding of her responsibilities to safeguard children and promote their learning. She takes all necessary steps to make sure children are kept safe at all times. She understands the possible signs of abuse and knows what to do, should she have a concern about a child in her care. The childminder demonstrates a strong commitment to improving her practice and the experiences she provides for children. She regularly seeks and responds to the views of parents and children. The childminder continually develops her skills and knowledge. She attends regular training events and follows good practice guidance, given by local authority support workers. Since the last inspection she has obtained a childcare qualification at level 3, which has had a positive impact on the quality of her provision. Written statements and discussions with parents demonstrate they recognise and appreciate the contribution the childminder makes to their child's learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	209435
Local authority	Staffordshire
Inspection number	865616
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	6
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	16 July 2009
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 2009 and lives in Lichfield, Staffordshire. She operates all year round from 7am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder provides funded education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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