

Childminder Report

Inspection date

27 May 2015

Previous inspection date

27 April 2010

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 highly reflective. There are many systems in place to help her evaluate her practice, for example, daily evaluation sheets and the Ofsted self-evaluation form. This helps her to identify areas for improvement and training needs.
- Children are exceptionally well behaved. They play cooperatively together and older children show great patience and understanding of their younger peers.
- The childminder is committed to her role. She attends regular training to gain the necessary qualifications in order to meet the legal requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage.
- Partnerships with parents and others are well established. There is a good two-way flow of information meaning the childminder is able to offer continuity in children's care and learning. Parents speak very highly of the childminder, commenting on the wonderful care their children receive.
- The childminder is highly organised. She maintains all paperwork and documentation to a very high standard and has in place all required policies, procedures and records.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The childminder misses some opportunities to help children think about what else is possible and why things happen.
- There are limited resources in the role-play area outdoors to support children's imaginative skills fully and to help children make links with other areas of their learning.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- create further opportunities for children to think critically by modelling the thinking process and encouraging children to consider about what else is possible
- provide a wider range of resources for role play, particularly outdoors, and to encourage children to explore other areas of learning, for example, by supplying menus and order forms for children to practise their emergent writing and reading skills.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities during indoor play, in the garden and during snack and lunch time.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the childminder and took account her evaluation.
- The inspector viewed children's records, planning documentation and a range of other documentation including policies and procedures and the self-evaluation document.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day and letters left for the inspector.

Inspector

Katie Sparrow

Inspection findings

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

The childminder provides a stimulating range of activities to promote children's learning and development. For example, children enjoy planning a treasure hunt using laminated arrows to show the direction of the treasure. The childminder uses observations of children's learning effectively to identify and plan for the next steps in their learning. As a result, all children make good progress. The quality of teaching is good. The childminder engages in much conversation with children, asking lots of questions as they play. Children are confident and skilful communicators as a result. The childminder misses some opportunities to ask a wider range of questions, particularly to encourage children's problem-solving skills. The learning environment is rich in visual aids and attractively displayed resources. Children are supported to lead their own play as they can easily access the resources available. Children develop wonderful imaginative skills as they care for dolls and pretend to prepare their food in the play kitchen indoors. Outdoors, the childminder has created a cafe for children to explore. However, resources are not as rich and there are missed opportunities to promote other areas of learning alongside the role play.

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

The childminder creates a warm and homely atmosphere for the children, who are happy and display high levels of confidence. Children enjoy positive relationships with the childminder and her family, further supporting children's feelings of security. The childminder helps children develop the necessary skills in preparation for school. For example, children are widely independent as they help prepare for lunch and tend to their own care needs. The highly enabling environment further promotes children's independence. Children display wonderful social skills and are kind and caring towards one another. The childminder has high expectations of the children and consequently, they are motivated, keen learners. Children enjoy lots of outdoor play. They have access to a large garden and enjoy lots of trips out, supporting children's awareness of healthy lifestyles. As a result of the excellent care practices in place, children's physical and emotional well-being is greatly supported.

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

The childminder has a clear understanding of the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage and implements these successfully. She holds a relevant early years qualification at level 3, which gives her a good understanding of how children learn and enables her to teach effectively. Children are safeguarded very well as a result of the childminder's commitment to their safety. She has a firm understanding of child protection procedures and is clear about what she must do should she have a concern about a child in her care. Risk assessments are rigorous and every effort has been made to ensure the environment is safe for children to enjoy. Effective systems are in place for monitoring children's development and activities, ensuring any needs are swiftly identified.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY400971
Local authority	Durham
Inspection number	860201
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	8
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	27 April 2010
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 2009 and lives in Crook, County Durham. She operates all year round from 6.30am to 6.30pm, Monday to Friday, except bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder holds a qualification at level 3.

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