

Childminder Report

Inspection date

2 June 2015

Previous inspection date

23 September 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

- Children's self-esteem is extremely good and they feel emotionally secure in the setting. They have very strong relationships with the childminder and her co-workers, who are affectionate and responsive to their needs. As a result, children are very happy and confident.
- Children make good progress relative to their starting points. The childminder uses her observations very well to assess children's development and to plan for ongoing progress. Parents are involved in their children's learning from the outset. They are consistent in sharing their observations of children's learning at home which the childminder uses to plan meaningful activities.
- Children communicate confidently because the childminder skilfully questions them to encourage them to explore their thoughts and ideas. Children listen well to each other and are keen contributors to discussions.
- Children make very good use of the dynamic and vibrant learning environment, inside and outdoors. The childminder has organised all areas extremely well to provide children with a good variety of learning experiences.
- Self-evaluation in the setting is good. The childminder successfully gains feedback from parents as part of the process and includes children's views. Development plans focus well on the benefits to children.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Resources that promote older children's knowledge of technology lack challenge.
- The childminder does not make best use of opportunities in musical activities to extend children's understanding of sounds and rhythm.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- extend the range of technology resources to provide greater challenge for older children
- continue to focus on professional development, in particular developing skills to encourage children to explore different sounds and rhythms in music.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the childminder and children engaged in activities.
- The inspector observed how the childminder works with her co-childminder and assistant childminder in meeting children's needs.
- The inspector held discussions with the childminder about her practice and how she monitors this.
- The inspector sampled documentation relating to safeguarding and children's welfare.
- The inspector talked to children and read feedback from parents.

Inspector

Julie Neal

Inspection findings

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

Children have a very good awareness and understanding of mathematics. This is because the childminder skilfully includes concepts such as size, shape and number throughout the day's activities and routines. For example, children used torches in the den to make shadows and explored how moving the light made these grow bigger and smaller. Children enjoyed a game where they matched numbers of objects to numerals. They were quick to calculate how many boys, girls and adults were present and added these together. The childminder works well with other pre-schools and nurseries that children also attend. There are good, well-established systems to share information about children's learning, and the childminder and other providers work effectively together to support children as they move on to school.

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

Settling-in procedures are extremely good and effectively tailored to meet the needs of each child. The childminder uses these initial visits very well to get to know children and to make sure they are comfortable and familiar with her co-workers. This is particularly important for babies and very young children, who are as happy and confident in the setting as their older friends. Children's behaviour is very good and children of different ages play well together. For example, an older child happily entertained a younger friend by playing 'peek-a-boo' together. Children are safety-conscious. For example, they were adventurous as they climbed and used the slide; they made sure no other children were nearby as they jumped off the apparatus and went backwards down the slide.

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

The childminder has a good understanding of child protection and implements her safeguarding procedures effectively. The childminder and co-childminder work very well together and their skills complement each other. For example, the childminder sometimes struggles with extending musical activities. However, her co-childminder is very skilled in this area, so there is little impact on children's learning. Because this is so, the childminder has not focused on this as part of her professional development. Action plans for improvement focus very well on outcomes for children. For example, the childminder is developing the use of sign language with children. This is to raise children's awareness of different types of communication and to support speech and language development. The childminder provides regular and effective supervision of her assistant, who is a valued member of the childminding team.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY247010
Local authority	Somerset
Inspection number	847046
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	12
Number of children on roll	14
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	23 September 2010
Telephone number	

The childminder registered in 2002. She lives in Highbridge, Somerset. She works with a co-childminder and an assistant childminder. The childminder and her co-minder hold Level 3 early years qualifications. Their assistant holds a Level 2 qualification. The childminder works weekdays throughout the year.

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