

Childminder Report

Inspection date

2 July 2015

Previous inspection date

14 January 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 regularly observes and monitors children's development. She understands how children learn and develop, which results in them making good progress in her setting.
- Children are developing good communication and language skills. The childminder skilfully encourages children's language development by providing commentary and careful questioning during activities.
- The childminder has an excellent understanding of how to safeguard children effectively. As a result, children are extremely safe in the childminder's care.
- Children are very happy, relaxed and emotionally secure because the childminder is warm and supportive towards the children in her care. They build exceptionally strong attachments with the childminder, which has a positive effect on their emotional well-being.
- Partnerships with other professionals are good. The childminder shares information about children's learning and development, so that there is continuity in their learning.
- The childminder demonstrates a strong commitment to the continuous development of her service, through ongoing self-evaluation.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The information gathered from parents when children start at the setting does not always include detailed information about what they have already learned.
- The childminder does not always fully support children's emergent writing during planned literacy activities.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen the depth of information sought from parents about children's prior learning, when children begin at the setting
- review the organisation of planned literacy activities to ensure that children are able to develop their early writing skills.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the childminder's house and her outdoor area, and talked with the children and the childminder.
- The inspector observed the children and carried out a joint observation with the childminder.
- The inspector looked at children's assessment records, planning documentation, evidence of suitability of household members, the provider's self-evaluation and a range of other documentation, including the safeguarding procedures.
- The inspector also took account of the views of parents from their written feedback to the childminder.

Inspector

Julie Campbell

Inspection findings

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

Teaching is good. The childminder uses effective observations to plan challenging activities across the seven areas of learning. She completes regular assessments, including the progress check for children between the ages of two and three years. Activities identify children's next steps and are based on their interests and individual learning styles. As a result, all children make good progress in preparation for school or their next stage in learning. The childminder introduces mathematics during play. For example, she asks them to count during activities and introduces language, such as 'more' and 'less'. Children develop a good knowledge of the natural environment as the childminder talks to the children about the bugs they discover in the garden. However, on occasion, the childminder overly directs children during literacy activities. As a result, children are not always able to further develop their early writing skills. Children have good opportunities to develop their physical skills outside.

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

The childminder is extremely kind, caring and attentive. Her home is a warm and welcoming environment. As a result, the attachments between her and the children are exceptionally strong. Resources are displayed so that children can make independent choices about their play. Children's independence is further promoted as they have free-flow access to the stimulating and well-resourced play area outside. Children behave well and are extremely motivated in their learning. Children show their excellent understanding of keeping safe. For example, older children explain to younger children how to use outdoor equipment safely. Children learn about good hygiene practices and healthy lifestyles. The childminder celebrates children's achievements throughout the day, offering praise and encouragement. As a result, children are extremely well motivated and have high levels of self-esteem.

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

The childminder has a sound understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage. This is because she is well qualified and undertakes further training to develop her practice. Relationships with parents are good. Parents comment that they are 'delighted' with the childminder. She shares information with them about their children's learning. However, the childminder does not gather information about children's skills and abilities from parents, when children start the setting. This means that some children do not have specific starting points in their learning and development, for the childminder to be highly effective in planning activities from the outset. The childminder evaluates her practice well. She has identified future improvements that are targeted to improve children's learning. The childminder regularly shares reports with other providers to ensure continued good working relationships.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY379176
Local authority	Stockton on Tees
Inspection number	999026
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	9
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	14 January 2009
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 2008 and lives in Ingleby Barwick. She operates all year round from 7.45am to 5.30pm, Monday to Friday, except bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder has a childcare qualification at level 3.

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