

Childminder Report

Inspection date	8 July 2015
Previous inspection date	17 January 2012

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 quality of the childminder's teaching is good. She is well qualified and helps children to develop skills, such as early writing and counting in readiness for school.
- The childminder works effectively with local services, such as schools and children's centres to share information and support children's individual needs.
- The childminder reviews children's assessments well. She tracks the progress children make over time. This ensures that the correct intervention is sought, if required and children's individual needs are met.
- Partnerships with parents are strong. Testimonials show that they are delighted with the level of support provided by the childminder.
- The childminder works together with children to create expectations and codes of behaviour for her home. This means children understand the rules for activities, such as tidying up, and respond appropriately.
- The childminder works well with other childminder's in her local area. This helps her to continually reflect on her service and make improvements that benefit children and support their achievements.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- There are times when the strategies the childminder uses to extend children's speaking skills are not always as effective as they could be.
- The childminder does not always provide sufficient opportunities for children to follow their thoughts and ideas through during creative 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 strategies used to support children to use more complex sentences to explain and question why things happen
- provide more opportunities for children to follow their own interests and ideas when exploring and experimenting with creative media and materials, such as paint.

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 documents children's learning well. This shows the progress they make over time and helps the childminder to plan activities that support children's next steps in learning. As a result, children make good progress over time. Parents are kept updated with the progress their children are making through regular conversations with the childminder. She shares children's learning journal files and encourages parents to support their child's learning at home. Children enjoy a good range of activities and access a wide range of resources within the childminder's home. The childminder supports children's communication skills appropriately. She sits alongside them as they paint, talking to them about the colours they are mixing together. However, children are not always provided with opportunities to talk about and explain what is happening, using more complex sentences. In addition, the childminder makes her own suggestions about how children can paint resources, such as using old food boxes. This means that children are not always able to follow their own thoughts and ideas to direct their learning.

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

The childminder's home is warm, stimulating and safe. She provides children with clear boundaries so they know where they can and cannot go within her home. This is shared with parents to maintain a joint approach. The childminder provides high levels of care and supervising children well at all times. Consequently, children are motivated to learn and show confidence in exploring their surroundings. Good quality information is gathered from parents when children first start attending. This ensures continuity in routines, such as sleeping and use of comforters, and supports children's physical and emotional needs very well. Children develop good relationships with the childminder and other family members. The childminder provides a selection of toys to promote children's learning. They are stored well and support children's independence in an effective way.

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

The childminder ensures her home is safe and secure at all times. Regular training keeps the childminder's knowledge of safeguarding updated and she knows how to respond effectively if she has concerns about a child's welfare. The childminder has a secure knowledge of the learning and development requirements. She maintains a good overview of the educational programmes she provides and is committed to providing good quality provision for children. She regularly reflects on the service she provides, seeking the views of parents and children. This information is used effectively to support her planning and identify areas for improvement. Occasionally, the childminder's daughter works as her assistant. Although her assistance is only used for emergencies, the childminder is aware of her responsibility in overseeing the support she provides.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY431557
Local authority	Durham
Inspection number	853220
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	1 - 9
Total number of places	12
Number of children on roll	9
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	17 January 2012
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 2011 and lives in Durham. She operates all year round from 7.15am 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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