

Childminder Report

Inspection date

10 July 2015

Previous inspection date

14 March 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Outstanding	1
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		Outstanding	1
The setting meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- The quality of teaching is excellent. The childminder has an exceptional knowledge of the learning and development requirements and of how children learn. As a result, children make rapid progress in their learning.
- Exceedingly strong partnerships with parents enable the childminder to meet the needs of individual children very effectively.
- The childminder fosters extremely warm and nurturing relationships with children. This helps them to become happy, confident and active learners.
- The childminder provides excellent support for children's personal, social and emotional development. She provides an inclusive environment where children are treated consistently with love and respect.
- Consistently high priority is given to safeguarding children and extremely robust health and safety checks are carried out daily. This means that children feel very safe and secure.
- The childminder is inspirational. She provides an appealing environment, where children are able to make choices about what they do, promoting their curiosity, exploratory skills and instincts.
- The childminder is totally dedicated and uses a wide range of opportunities to extend the range of learning experiences offered and to enable children to be more involved in their wider community.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue to enrich the environment to complement the already excellent opportunities to support children's creativity and imagination.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the playroom, during snack time and during outdoor play.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the childminder.
- The inspector held discussions with the childminder throughout the inspection and spoke to children when appropriate.
- The inspector viewed documentation, including children's assessment, tracking and planning records, and a sample of the policies and procedures.
- The inspector checked evidence of the suitability of household members, the safeguarding policy and procedures, and the complaints policy.
- The inspector discussed self-evaluation with the childminder and took account of both the written views and comments made by parents on the day of inspection.

Inspector

Lois Wiseman

Inspection findings

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

The childminder knows the children exceptionally well. She remains totally flexible in her planning, providing extensive opportunities so that learning comes from children leading their own play and exploring their own ideas. This means that all children make excellent progress, given their starting points. Children are engaged in high-quality play. The childminder's skilful questions greatly support children's communication skills, as they talk about past events and express their own opinions. The childminder makes highly effective use of observations and assessments, including the progress check for children aged between two and three years. She tracks children's progress extremely well. Their learning journals provide a detailed account of time spent in this child-friendly environment. Highly effective and professional working relationships with parents enable them to feel valued as equal partners in their children's care and education.

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

The childminder is extremely reassuring and sensitive to children's individual care needs. Children settle quickly into this home-from-home environment and they develop strong attachments with their peers and other adults. The childminder maintains very high levels of health and safety, ensuring that children are effectively safeguarded. Consistent care routines help children to learn about healthy lifestyles and to develop self-help skills. Children learn to take safe risks as they enjoy physical play outside. The play environments are inclusive, engaging and very well organised. Children are offered healthy food and drink, helping to promote their excellent physical well-being. The childminder is an excellent role model, promoting good manners consistently. She is highly effective in her behaviour management, helping children to understand the consequences of their actions and how they can resolve things for themselves. As a result, children develop positive attitudes and social skills ready for their next stage in learning.

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

The childminder has a very secure knowledge of the safeguarding and welfare requirements, and how to keep children safe. She understands her child protection duties fully and has robust procedures in place. This enthusiastic practitioner remains well informed of current early years practice and makes use of any newly acquired skills in her daily practice. Written policies and procedures are exemplary and reflect the dedicated approach to her service. The childminder reviews her practice exceedingly well, using parents' comments and feedback to improve her provision. She recognises the importance of continuously supporting children's creative and imaginative play, and has identified areas to strengthen this further. This experienced childminder is committed to continued improvement. She meets with other local childminders to share good practice ideas. The childminder has a recognised childcare qualification and regularly attends training. She uses any knowledge gained to extend children's learning experiences even further. As a result, children become self-assured and ready for their move into school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY350594
Local authority	Durham
Inspection number	863337
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 March 2011
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 2007 and lives in Durham, County Durham. She operates from 8am to 5.30pm, Monday to Friday, all year round, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder holds a childcare qualification at level 3.

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