

Childminder Report

Inspection date

8 July 2015

Previous inspection date

28 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 childminder has an excellent knowledge and understanding about how children learn and develop. This, along with her exceptional teaching practice, results in children making outstanding progress in their learning and development.
- The childminder records observations of children at play to review their natural interests, capabilities and preferred learning styles. Children's records of achievement are meticulously captured within their learning journeys. These are frequently shared with parents to help them to support their children's learning at home more effectively.
- The childminder organises her time and home carefully to ensure she is able to dedicate herself to meeting children's needs and to provide high standards of support and supervision.
- Children's ability to communicate well with other children and adults, behave well and their growing independence means that they are extremely well prepared for their move to nursery or school.
- The well-qualified childminder is constantly striving to improve her skills and knowledge to enhance her professional development. She continues to attend extensive ongoing training courses and reads relevant publications. This has a positive impact on children, who benefit from outstanding learning experiences.
- The childminder puts children's safety and well-being at the centre of everything she does. Risk assessment is thorough and the childminder fully understands her role and responsibilities in protecting children. Consequently, children's safety and well-being are promoted to a very high standard.
- Parents are extremely happy with the service that the childminder provides. They particularly praise the way that she always acts with their children's best interests at heart, and value the excellent level of two-way communication.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance even further children's already excellent manners and social skills.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities and discussed these with the childminder.
- The inspector looked at children's records, observation and assessment files, planning documentation and a selection of policies.
- The inspector spoke to the childminder and the children throughout the inspection.
- The inspector took account of parents' views, through discussion, written documentation they had provided for the inspection and from the childminder's self-evaluation.
- The inspector checked evidence of the childminder's qualification and the suitability of all adults living in the home.

Inspector

Janet Fairhurst

Inspection findings

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

Children make rapid progress in their learning and development. This is because the childminder understands how they learn best and provides them with a wealth of resources and stimulating learning experiences. Children gain skills and learn through fun activities based around their individual learning styles. The childminder is highly successful at observing children's development. Through regular, precise assessments, alongside discussions with parents, she has an exceptional understanding of children's learning and development. Children's communication and language skills are given high priority. The childminder provides excellent commentary and asks effective questions to engage the children in practising their language skills. She listens to their responses, giving them time to speak. The childminder's clear pronunciation ensures that children hear appropriately modelled language. Children enjoy the many opportunities they have to write and make marks. Older children learn about letters and the sounds they make, and find the letters to make up their name. Consequently, children are developing essential skills for future learning.

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

Children flourish due to the childminder's warm, positive and sensitive interaction. Effective settling-in procedures help new children adjust to change in ways that suit them and their parents. The childminder gets to know the children and truly understands their individual needs and personalities. Consequently, children are extremely happy and confident and they have formed very strong bonds with the childminder. Children learn to understand about the needs of others, such as how to share and take turns. However, very occasionally, the childminder misses opportunities to remind children to use manners and develop social skills. Healthy eating practices are highly promoted and lunches are balanced and nutritious. Children's physical control develops exceptionally well as they have many chances to be active. The childminder provides many opportunities for children to learn about the natural world.

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

The childminder has exceptionally high aspirations for quality and is constantly reflecting on her practice, the progress that children make and the service that she provides. The childminder is extremely well informed about her safeguarding responsibilities to protect children and she has completed relevant training. Parents are actively encouraged to follow up their child's learning at home. Their views about their child's care and development are central to the childminder's effective planning and support for their child. As a result, children's care and learning is supported exceptionally well and children make excellent progress.

Setting details

Unique reference number	403051
Local authority	Northumberland
Inspection number	868993
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	14
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	28 March 2011
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 1996 and lives in Stocksfield, Northumberland. She operates all year round from 7am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, except bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. She holds an appropriate early years qualifications at level 3.

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