

Childminder Report

Inspection date

8 July 2015

Previous inspection date

Not applicable

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection: Previous inspection:	Good Not applicable	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 childminder has good two-way partnerships with parents. She tells parents about children's learning experiences and encourages them to tell her about the activities that children enjoy at home. This effectively promotes children's learning and supports their well-being.
- The childminder is well qualified and ambitious. She identifies training and continues to improve her qualifications. As a result, she is knowledgeable about children's development, which helps her to ensure all children make good progress in their learning.
- Children learn about good behaviour because the childminder is a good role model. She teaches children about sharing and kindness in practical ways, such as playing games that involve taking turns.
- Children play confidently in the childminder's care because they have developed secure bonds with her. She is responsive to their emotional needs, such as providing cuddles when they are tired.
- Children's communication and language skills are supported well. The childminder encourages conversations and teaches children new words as they play.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The childminder does not always enable children to take acceptable risks during their play to enhance their ability to keep themselves safe.
- On occasion, the childminder does not give children enough time to think about possible answers to her questions.

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 experiences that help children enhance their understanding of risk and keeping themselves safe
- give children more time to think and consider their answers to probing questions, as they develop their skills in problem solving and exploring their own ideas.

Inspection activities

- The inspector looked at the areas of the home used for childminding and the toys and resources available to children.
- The inspector observed children playing and spoke to the childminder about the activities and routines.
- A range of documents were looked at, including evidence of the suitability checks for the childminder and her husband, training information, risk assessments and children's records.
- The views of parents were taken into account through comments in children's records and a parent survey.

Inspector

Veronica Sharpe

Inspection findings

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

The childminder knows children well and they feel secure in her care. She uses children's interests to plan activities that they enjoy and which promote their learning. For example, she encourages a child to use toy trucks to make marks in paint, supporting their interest in vehicles. Ample resources are very well organised to enable children to make choices and follow their own interests. A plentiful supply of books helps children to develop their interest in literacy in readiness for the next stage of their learning. The childminder introduces mathematical language well as children make pretend tea, talking about full or empty cups. Older children learn to count out how many cups they need, developing the skills they need for school. Push-button toys and other simple mechanisms support children's knowledge of technology. The childminder does not always give children enough time to consider their responses to her questions and ideas, as a result their thinking skills are not fully promoted.

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

Children benefit from fresh air and exercise each day as they play in the childminder's garden or visit local play areas. They explore their senses with sand and water and enjoy imaginative play in the shade of the garden gazebo. The childminder attends first-aid training regularly to promote children's health and safety in the event of minor accidents. She encourages children to develop their independence in many ways, such as putting on their own shoes or helping themselves to drinks. The childminder is sometimes overly cautious about encouraging children to take acceptable risks, such as climbing and balancing on large-play equipment. Children are not always encouraged to test their capabilities, realise their limitations and expand their understanding of safety. The childminder works closely with parents when children first start. This helps children to settle well and have their needs met.

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

The childminder implements the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage well. She understands child protection procedures, including what to do if an allegation is made against herself, and ensures her home is safe and secure. Children's development is reviewed frequently to ensure they continue to make good progress in their learning. Good partnerships with other professionals, such as schools and pre-schools, help to ensure children benefit from consistent learning experiences. The childminder reflects on the quality of her childminding business. She asks parents and children for their views and develops clear action plans to improve children's experiences. Most recently, she has implemented a planting area in her garden to enhance children's understanding of life cycles.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY453108
Local authority	Cambridgeshire
Inspection number	1006633
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	5
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 2012 and lives in St Ives, Cambridgeshire. She childminds each weekday, all year round. The childminder holds an early years qualification at level 4. She provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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