

Childminder Report

Inspection date

16 July 2015

Previous inspection date

20 November 2008

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 childminder and her assistant are well qualified and use this knowledge to provide an interesting range of activities that help extend children's abilities. They undertake careful assessments of what children can do and use these to plan next steps in their learning. Children are making good progress, particularly in their communication and physical skills.
- The childminder develops warm relationships with the children. Children enjoy the homely atmosphere and their emotional and physical well-being is well supported. The childminder responds quickly to children's need for rest, refreshments and comfort, which means they can make the most of their learning opportunities.
- The childminder ensures children understand the importance of a healthy diet and exercise. They have plenty of opportunities to exercise in the fresh air and eat a wide range of fruits and vegetables, some of which they grow themselves.
- The childminder is well organised and exceeds the requirements for paperwork to ensure her setting runs smoothly. She ensures she reviews her provision and makes plans for improvements. She keeps up to date with changes in legislation and undertakes training as part of her professional development.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Children are not always encouraged to develop their own ideas, maximise their ability to think critically and develop solutions for themselves.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance children's abilities to manage problems or plan what they are going to do.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the main playrooms and outside play space.
- The inspector spoke with the childminder, her assistant and children at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector undertook a joint observation with the childminder.
- The inspector looked at children's assessment records and planning documentation, and a selection of policies and children's records.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents from information included in written testimonials.
- The inspector took account of the childminder's self-evaluation and improvement plan.

Inspector

Sarah Rhodes

Inspection findings

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

The childminder has a good knowledge of the learning and development requirements and this underpins her good teaching. It also supports her ability to provide a wide range of interesting activities. These help to develop children's skills in readiness for the next stage in their learning, such as school. The childminder regularly assesses children's progress and keeps clear records. This means she can track children's progress and identify areas where she needs to provide additional activities to boost their learning. Children learn about nature through caring for plants, and mathematical skills are practised when counting toys and filling and emptying containers. Children's communication skills are also promoted. The childminder explains what is happening and introduces children to new words. Children are developing their literacy skills, making marks with a range of materials and enjoying well-loved stories. Children develop their physical skills whilst enjoying a wide range of tactile and craft activities, confidently handling tools. They have slightly less opportunities to develop their problem-solving abilities as the childminder sometimes explains things to them or tells them what to do rather than encourage them to reach their own understanding. However, they are active happy learners.

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

The children have strong relationships with the childminder and her assistant. This supports their emotional well-being and promotes their confidence. This enables them to cope well when faced with new experiences. The childminder promotes positive behaviour. Children are kept well occupied and respond positively to the praise and encouragement they receive. They understand what is expected of them because of the clear routines. Children are gaining independence as they select their own activities and feed themselves. These key social skills help prepare children for the move on to school when the time comes. The children learn how to keep themselves safe. For example, they negotiate different levels when using the garden.

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

The childminder ensures she and her assistant meet the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. She makes sure her assistant is fully aware of all the policies and procedures she has in place. The childminder reflects with her assistant on how they can improve. They access qualifications and training that will benefit the children cared for. For example, the childminder has completed safeguarding training, which ensures she has a clear understanding of what would constitute a safeguarding concern and what she should do about any concern she may have. Childminding forums and local authority support worker visits help the childminder keep up to date with changes to legislation. The childminder works in partnership with the children's parents. She finds out about children can do at home from the parents. Parents are also well informed about what their child does during the day and how they can extend this learning at home. They are delighted with the care their children receive.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY306548
Local authority	Staffordshire
Inspection number	856605
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	12
Number of children on roll	3
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	20 November 2008
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 2005 and lives in Werrington, Stoke-on-Trent. She works with an assistant. She operates all year round from 7am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. Both the childminder and her assistant have an appropriate level 3 qualification.

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Piccadilly Gate
Store St
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 4234
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