

Childminder Report

Inspection date

20 July 2015

Previous inspection date

4 February 2009

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 is skilled in providing for children's individual needs and interests. Children enthusiastically engage in activities and are keen learners. They are making good progress and acquire key skills required for the next stage in their learning.
- The childminder provides a welcoming, family environment where children learn through play. They are happy, settled and share warm relationships with the childminder, supporting their emotional well-being.
- The childminder uses the nearby amenities to extend children's learning opportunities. She regularly visits the woods, beach, local parks and shops. This supports children in learning about their local community and the natural environment.
- Children are safe, secure and protected from harm and abuse, because the childminder fully understands her responsibility to safeguard children. She is confident in her ability to act promptly, should she have concerns about a child in her care.
- The childminder effectively supports children to develop communication and language skills, by introducing new words and talking to children about what they are doing as they play and learn.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The childminder does not always leave sufficient time for children to think through their own ideas when they are playing.
- The childminder has not explored further ways of parents contributing to children's progress.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- build on children's ability to think critically, giving them more time to think about and formulate their own responses and ideas as their learning is challenged and extended
- strengthen partnership working with parents, so that all parents have more opportunities to support children's learning at home in line with the next steps identified by the childminder.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities indoors and in the garden, and accompanied the childminder to collect children from school.
- The inspector spoke with the childminder and children at appropriate times during the inspection and carried out a focused observation.
- The inspector looked at activity planning, records of children's learning and a selection of policies and records.
- The inspector checked evidence of the suitability and qualifications of the childminder and viewed her self-evaluation and improvement plan.

Inspector

Lindsey Cullum

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 understanding of how children learn through play and provides well-organised activities to fully engage children of different ages. She gets to know children very well and gains a good understanding of their skills and abilities through her observations and assessments of their learning. The childminder recognises children's interest in animals and freezes toy insects inside ice blocks. Children are eager to explore and learn how warm water melts ice. They show good control and coordination as they handle the slippery ice cubes or handle tools, such as pencils for drawing. The childminder enthusiastically joins in children's play, encouraging conversation and enabling children to talk about what they know. However, she is sometimes too eager and quick with her questions, so children do not have enough time to think more deeply for themselves and develop their own ideas. The childminder presents interesting opportunities that develop children's understanding of number, shape and size. They enjoy making a calendar, become familiar with the days of the week and learn that print carries meaning.

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

The childminder values children highly as individuals and warmly welcomes them into her home. She works closely with parents to settle children and responds sensitively to children's physical and emotional needs. The childminder constantly celebrates children's achievements with enthusiastic praise. This effectively boosts their confidence and self-esteem. Through the childminder's sensitive guidance, children learn to share resources, be considerate of others and use good manners. The childminder ensures that children develop independence in many basic skills. They manage their personal care needs well, so that they are well prepared for the next stage in their learning. Children are active and enjoy time outdoors in the childminder's garden or on visits to the local parks. They use more physically challenging equipment to climb and swing, developing their large muscle control and coordination.

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

The childminder is very experienced and has a secure knowledge of the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. She very occasionally works with an assistant, who is familiar with her policies and working practices to support children. The childminder is vigilant in her supervision of children and conducts effective risk assessments to help her identify potential hazards. She keeps a check on children's progress and the activities they take part in. This helps children to make good progress and demonstrates her commitment to continuous improvement. Partnership working with parents ensures that good information is exchanged daily. However, parents are not always involved in supporting learning at home. The childminder effectively shares information with other early years settings, so that a consistent approach is developed to meeting children's care and learning needs.

Setting details

Unique reference number	256257
Local authority	Norfolk
Inspection number	867003
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	25
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	4 February 2009
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 1993 and lives in a village near to King's Lynn, Norfolk. She very occasionally works with an assistant. The childminder operates all year round from 7.15am to 7.15pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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