

Childminder Report

Inspection date

20 July 2015

Previous inspection date

16 June 2011

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's calm, knowledgeable approach to teaching ensures that children feel ready to learn and make good progress towards the early learning goals. She effectively supports children in gaining the skills and knowledge necessary for their future learning, including the move on to school.
- The childminder provides a truly reassuring presence in children's lives. She is calm, patient and sensitive to their individual needs and knows what they need to feel at ease and ready to learn.
- The childminder is highly qualified and proactive about continuing her professional development. This enables her to provide children with a memorable and beneficial early years experience.
- The childminder helps younger children learn about mathematics as she counts the dots on puzzles with them and names the shapes they point to. She encourages their participation and mirrors their early attempts at associated words, helping to confirm their learning.
- The childminder takes into account children's views through use of the 'fish wish' list children use and by asking them to complete questionnaires. This ensures activities and resources reflect their interests, support their learning and they feel valued.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The childminder does not routinely share ideas with parents to support children's next steps in learning at home.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- develop the good links with parents, offering more information and ideas to help them support their child's learning at home.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the conservatory and kitchen.
- The inspector spoke to the childminder and children at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the childminder.
- The inspector reviewed evidence of the suitability of the childminder and other adults living within her home.
- The inspector reviewed children's records, planning documentation and a range of other documentation, including policies and procedures.
- The inspector took parent's views into account.

Inspector

Deborah Hunt

Inspection findings

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

The childminder works intuitively with children to promote their learning and development. She gives them time to consider what they want to do next and provides them with space and time to think. Children respond readily in this calm, peaceful environment. They develop critical-thinking skills as they use puzzles. The childminder sits with them helping them count the dots and match them to the corresponding puzzle piece and number. She reinforces their developing language by repeating and adding to the language they use. Younger children enjoy affectionate cuddles and play confidently alongside her. Older children discuss their school day and play with activities suited to their age. As children use play dough, the childminder asks them skilful questions to promote their thinking, such as asking them to consider different ways to work with the dough. She talks to them about size and shape, extending their mathematical skills. The childminder shares children's achievements with parents daily and provides regular updates on their progress. However, she does not always share information or ideas relating to children's next steps, for parents to further support their learning at home.

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

The childminder develops strong, trusting relationships with children. She encourages parents to settle their children according to their individual preferences. Ample information is gathered about children's routines and their likes and dislikes, in order to meet their needs. Children benefit from fresh air and exercise every day. They play in the garden, visit parks and enjoy activities at the local children's centre. The childminder is a good role model, teaching children polite behaviour and how to share and take turns. Children learn to tolerate, respect and value others, promoting good relationships between them. The childminder helps children to develop the skills they need for school. For example, she promotes their growing independence routinely during activities and they become proficient with personal hygiene routines. She values children's suggestions, for example, taking children to pick the fresh strawberries they requested for dessert. This illustrates her positive approach to helping children adopt healthy lifestyles.

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

The childminder has a secure understanding of safeguarding and how to promote children's welfare and well-being. She has a wealth of experience and regularly attends child protection training, which means she knows what to do if she has any concerns regarding a child in her care. Documentation, including policies and procedures that keep parents informed about her service, is well maintained and easily accessible. The childminder meets with other childminders and researches independently to ensure her practice remains up to date. She asks parents for their views on the quality of her provision and is a reflective practitioner. Parents praise the quality of the provision, typically saying that the childminder is 'incredibly fair' and 'brilliant', and that they have recommended her to other people.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY408481
Local authority	Northamptonshire
Inspection number	850920
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	10
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	16 June 2011
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 2010 and lives in Oundle, near Peterborough. She operates all year round from 7.30am to 6pm, Monday to Thursday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder is a member of the local childminding network and offers funded early education places for two-, three- and four-year-old children. She holds relevant early years qualifications including Early Years Professional status.

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