

Childminder Report

Inspection date

28 July 2015

Previous inspection date

10 May 2010

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 fosters warm, secure and nurturing relationships with children. This helps them to become happy, confident and active learners.
- The childminder is a very good role model for children, acting in a polite, calm and respectful manner. She gives clear expectations and boundaries, and encourages all children to share and take turns. This helps children to behave very well.
- Safeguarding is given high priority. The childminder protects children from harm. She has a strong understanding of the signs and symptoms of abuse and knows who to contact if she has any concerns about a child in her care. This contributes towards children in her care being very well protected.
- The childminder makes good use of community facilities to complement the learning that takes place in her setting.
- The childminder works closely in partnership with other early years settings and professionals to support children's individual care and learning needs.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Occasionally, strategies to support children's communication and thinking skills to the highest level are not always used to best effect.
- The childminder is not always fully successful in seeking precise information from all parents about what children do at home, so this can be taken into account when planning activities to maximise children's good learning even further.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- find ways to strengthen the development of children's communication skills so that they make rapid progress in this area of development
- explore further ways to help parents share what they know about their children, to complement their learning from home.

Inspection activities

- The inspector viewed the premises, toys and equipment.
- The inspector observed activities in the home and carried out a joint observation with the childminder.
- The inspector talked to the childminder and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector checked evidence of the childminder's qualifications and evidence of the suitability of all adult household members.
- The inspector reviewed relevant documentation, including the childminder's self-evaluation document, children's learning journals and a sample of policies and procedures.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents provided in written form.

Inspector

Karen Tervit

Inspection findings

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

Children play and learn in an interesting and stimulating environment. The childminder's teaching is consistently of a good quality and as a result, children make good progress and develop the skills they need in readiness for school. Younger children enjoy listening to stories, helping to turn the pages and lift the flaps, encouraging their interest in books. Older children go on to complete creative activities linked to their interest in dinosaur stories. This helps them to remain involved and interested in favourite stories. The childminder uses appropriate strategies to support children's communication skills. However, occasionally she does not always allow enough time for children to think and respond when she asks them questions before being given the answer. Parents are kept well informed of the progress their children are making. They have regular access to children's learning journal files. However, the childminder is not fully successful in encouraging all parents to share examples of what their children have been learning at home. Therefore, children's full range of experiences are not shared and taken into account when planning activities, to extend children's good learning even further.

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

Children are happy and settled, and enjoy warm and caring relationships with the childminder and co-childminder. The childminder offers flexible settling-in sessions and gathers information from parents to ensure children feel secure and their emotional needs are met. Children are physically active and are they supported very well to lead a healthy lifestyle. Children enjoy healthy and nutritionally balanced home-cooked meals and snacks. Resources are attractively presented to help children make independent choices in their play. The childminder teaches children to enjoy the outdoor environment, and to investigate the natural world. This also supports their understanding of the world very well. The childminder effectively supports children's understanding of safety by discussing safety precautions, both indoors and outdoors.

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

The childminder has good knowledge of the Early Years Foundation Stage. She is experienced and enthusiastic and continually strives to improve the service that she provides. The childminder has successfully addressed her previous recommendations. She completes robust risk assessments of the environment, identifies hazards and takes suitable steps to minimise these. She accurately reviews and evaluates children's learning and their overall progress. This helps her to identify any gaps in children's learning, ensuring that they receive suitable challenge and make good progress. The childminder uses self-evaluation effectively to determine her priorities for improvement. For example, the outdoor space is currently being redeveloped so that it may be used to its maximum potential. The childminder regularly accesses training and shares good practice with her childminding colleagues. As a result, she is receptive to new ideas, maintaining and enhancing the high-quality care and learning she offers.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY343692
Local authority	Hartlepool
Inspection number	863009
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	6
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	10 May 2010
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 2006 and lives in Hartlepool. She operates all year round from 7am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder provides funded early education for two-year-old children. The childminder works with her daughter who is also a registered childminder.

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Piccadilly Gate
Store St
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 4234
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