

Childminder Report

Inspection date	29 July 2015
Previous inspection date	22 June 2009

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
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

- Children make good progress in their learning through varied and interesting activities. Staff offer sensitive support to encourage children to participate fully and develop good concentration. They promote thinking skills and help children to learn about the world around them.
- Children are kept safe. Accidents are managed appropriately and recorded.
- Training and qualifications have a positive effect. The childminder ensures that statutory training is kept up to date. The degree qualification of one assistant has a good impact on children through her skilful teaching.
- The childminder identifies priorities for improvement.
- Bonds between staff and children are strong and trusting, care is tailored to each child and there are strong partnerships with parents.
- The childminder is able to ensure that effective systems for monitoring children's learning are in place enabling her to track progress effectively.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Activities that promote speech and language are not always purposeful enough to help younger children make more rapid progress in this area of learning.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- use every opportunity during activities to promote children's speaking and understanding skills.

Inspection activities

- The inspector viewed the ground floor of the premises covering all the areas used to deliver childcare.
- The inspector took account the views of assistants, parents and the childminder.
- The inspector spoke with, and observed, children.
- The inspector observed a range of activities in the main room where care is provided and the garden.
- The inspector viewed a sample of records, policies, records and the provider's self-evaluation document.
- The inspector had discussions with the childminder at appropriate points during the inspection, including evaluating a planned activity together.

Inspector

Kate Hipperson

Inspection findings

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

Activities reflect children's interests, for example, pictures to colour in are printed out according to their interests, making activities enjoyable. Children hold pencils well and make marks confidently showing that they practise this skill often. At story time, nearly all children sit and listen attentively. This focus on developing concentration and participating in planned adult-led activities, prepares children well for at school. However, the pace of story times is sometimes too fast for younger children, which means that they are unable to hear key words clearly or join in with repeated refrains. At another story time, younger children are given more individual attention, which suits their needs better. The childminder and her assistants keep extensive records including photographs of children learning and examples of their creations. This enables them to track children's learning and share achievements with parents. Learning and development records show that children are making good progress. The childminder works with parents to encourage the learning taking place in the setting to be reinforced at home. Children, particularly boys, benefit from having a male assistant as a role model and teacher. For example, they really enjoy being taught football skills.

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

The premises are clean, organised and welcoming. Children are safe and secure in the happy family atmosphere. Children behave well. The childminder ensures that staff know about children's individual needs and work closely with parents when there is any extra support needed. Children's multicultural and multilingual backgrounds are understood and valued, and a strong focus is maintained on learning English. First aid is administered effectively based on sound knowledge and experience. Fruit is served at snack time each day. Routines are familiar and consistent, further contributing to children's emotional well-being. Parents feedback that the childminder is very supportive, and her open and honest communication is valued. The childminder focuses on developing self-care skills to ensure children are ready for their move to larger settings or school.

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

The childminder oversees all work carried out by assistants and ensures that they know, understand and implement her clear policies. She ensures that documentation that is legally required, for example, the progress check for children aged between two and three years, and registers, are completed. A clear policy about the use of mobile phones and cameras helps ensure that children are kept safe. Children are well supervised. The childminder seeks regular support from another provider and seeks out professional development where needed. This ensures that the childminder keeps up to date with understanding and implementing the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. There are priorities for improvement including developing the knowledge and skills of the newest assistant. The childminder identifies that the degree qualification of one assistant has a positive effect on teaching practices.

Setting details

Unique reference number	222383
Local authority	Cambridgeshire
Inspection number	854616
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	18
Number of children on roll	20
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	22 June 2009
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 1994 and lives in Cambridge. She operates all year round from 7.15am until 6pm, Monday to Thursday and 7.15am until 6.30pm on a Friday, except bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder provides funded early years education for three- and four-year-old children. She works with two full time assistants, one of whom has a degree.

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