

Childminder Report

Inspection date

18 August 2015

Previous inspection date

12 March 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		Outstanding	1
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 are extremely well protected as the childminder has an excellent understanding of her role in safeguarding children. She is very proactive in the way she supports children to have an awareness of how to keep themselves safe.
- The childminder is highly skilled in nurturing children's confidence and self-esteem. She builds very close relationships with them, which helps to show them that they are valued and important.
- Partnerships with parents and other professionals are strong. The childminder maintains a very close yet professional relationship with parents, which supports children's learning and development between home, nursery and the childminder's home.
- The childminder has an excellent knowledge of the children in her care. She provides activities according to their interests and is skilful in helping to extend children's concentration levels, which maximises learning opportunities.
- Children are well supported in their communication skills. The childminder provides a stimulating environment for children and joins in with their play, encouraging verbal communication on a consistent basis.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Children do not always have regular opportunities to practise their early writing skills.
- Children do not always have opportunities to use their own ideas during creative activities.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance opportunities for children to practise their early writing skills
- provide even more opportunities for children to use their own ideas during creative activities.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed teaching and learning activities in the indoor environment and looked at the outdoor environment.
- The inspector discussed an activity undertaken during the inspection with the childminder.
- The inspector spoke to the childminder and children at suitable times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector looked at a sample of policies, procedures, children's assessment files and planning documentation.
- The inspector checked evidence of the suitability and the qualifications of the childminder.
- The inspector took account of parents' views provided in questionnaires.

Inspector

Trish Potts

Inspection findings

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

The childminder has developed very close and sensitive relationships with children. She talks to parents about children's individual needs before they start and this exchange of information is ongoing. This ensures that the childminder provides individualised care for children. She has a wide range of toys and activities that stimulate and interest children and they enjoy choosing what they want to play with. However, children do not always have enough opportunities to practise their early writing skills and use their own ideas during creative art activities. The childminder provides opportunities for children to explore and play whilst providing effective support when they need it. The childminder completes regular assessments of children's progress, covering all seven areas of learning. These are used to plan a range of enjoyable activities that promote individual children's learning and development. This provides a good basis for children to learn and gain the key skills needed for school.

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

The childminder has an excellent understanding of the need for children to feel safe and secure. She provides an exceptionally welcoming environment for children where their work is displayed prominently, nurturing a sense of belonging and ownership. The childminder encourages children to learn about good hygiene practices and healthy lifestyles. Children are extremely well supported in the development of their independence skills. They are encouraged to care for themselves and to carry out simple tasks when asked. The childminder is extremely skilled in providing superb opportunities to encourage children to communicate and extend their learning opportunities. The childminder has very realistic expectations regarding behaviour management. Children are very well behaved, extremely respectful and are growing in confidence. This helps to prepare children exceptionally well for the next stage in their learning.

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

The childminder has a very good understanding of the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. This ensures that children are motivated and learn effectively in a safe and secure environment. The childminder is organised in her provision and has developed effective record keeping systems, which help her to ensure parents and other professionals are well informed about children's progress. She is skilled in building on children's interests and extending their learning opportunities. This contributes towards children's good progress in all seven areas of learning. The childminder understands the importance of regularly updating her knowledge. She regularly attends training and has ongoing contact with other professionals. They share good practice and ideas for interesting activities. This, along with information from the questionnaires of parents and children, informs improvements to the childminder's practice, which helps her to enhance the provision for children.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY334027
Local authority	Hartlepool
Inspection number	862594
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	9
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	12 March 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 holds a qualification at level 3.

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