

Childminder Report

Inspection date

26 August 2015

Previous inspection date

31 March 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 is particularly skilled at supporting children's early literacy skills through activities, both indoors and outdoors. This helps children to make marks and write as they play and develop skills in readiness for school.
- The childminder completes regular and accurate assessments of children as they play. She uses this information well to plan interesting and challenging activities that help children to make good progress in all areas of their learning and development.
- The childminder enhances her professional knowledge by accessing training opportunities and support from local authority professionals. This makes a positive contribution towards meeting children's individual needs.
- The childminder shares her boundaries and behavioural expectations with parents and children. This helps children to learn where they can and cannot go within her home and establishes a joint and consistent approach to managing behaviour. Children apply their learning well and behaviour is good.
- Good care practices help children to learn about the importance of hygiene routines, how to promote their physical health and how to manage their self-care independently.
- The childminder supports children well with developing their independence skills.
- Children are helped to develop an understanding of safety when they take part in routine activities with the childminder.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The childminder does not always consider her own use of language well enough to support children's vocabulary.
- Occasionally, the childminder does not provide a wide enough range of stimulating resources for younger children to extend their exploration and investigation skills.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- model language more effectively to introduce children to new words that extend their vocabulary
- place more focus on ways to promote children's exploration and investigation skills.

Inspection activities

- The inspector viewed all parts of the home used for childminding.
- The inspector observed play and learning activities and spoke to the childminder and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the childminder.
- The inspector viewed regulatory documentation, including evidence of suitability checks, children's details, learning journals and a sample of policies and procedures.
- The inspector discussed self-evaluation and how this is organised to drive improvements that benefit the children.

Inspector

Nicola Jones

Inspection findings

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

The quality of the childminder's teaching is good and children make good progress in their learning over time. She is well qualified and has good knowledge of how young children learn and develop through play. Parents are kept well informed of the progress their children make. The childminder has daily conversations with them, sharing information about what their children have been learning at the setting and at home. She provides a wide selection of toys and equipment in both the indoor and outdoor environment. Children engage in a wide range of experiences that stimulate their senses and sustain their concentration for periods of time. However, some activities presented to younger children do not always arouse their curiosity and encourage them to explore and investigate to the highest level. This is because some resources provided to support children's play are not as stimulating as they could be. The childminder supports most aspects of children's communication skills appropriately. However, she sometimes misses opportunities to introduce new words to children to build their vocabulary.

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

The childminder places strong emphasis on supporting children's physical health. She provides a clean, safe environment where children can play and explore. Children enjoy a wide range of activities to extend their learning and benefit from playing outdoors. Good use is made of the childminder's backyard and other facilities in the local area. High levels of care are provided by the childminder, and children settle very quickly in her home. They show confidence as they move freely around the house and are motivated to try new experiences available to them. The childminder provides continuity to support children's emotional well-being. On arrival, she obtains good quality information from parents. This helps to ensure that routines are continued in order to meet children's individual requirements. Children's emotional needs are supported further when they attend local nurseries and schools. The childminder shares good quality information with teachers, maintaining continuity in the care they receive.

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

The childminder welcomes children into her home, where they learn in a healthy, safe and secure environment. The childminder reviews children's progress well. She analyses their assessments to identify areas where children may need additional support. This enables her to provide appropriate intervention and seek external agency involvement, if this is required, to meet children's needs further. Self-evaluation is good. The childminder maintains a comprehensive overview of her provision, reflecting on all aspects of her practice. This helps her to identify and address areas for development, taking account of the views of parents and children. Children are safeguarded effectively. The childminder's property is securely locked at all times when they are present. Risk assessment procedures are thorough and ensure all parts of the home that are accessed by children are free from hazards.

Setting details

Unique reference number	313761
Local authority	Durham
Inspection number	868159
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	1 - 9
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	6
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	31 March 2011
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 1998 and lives in Stanley, County Durham. She operates all year round from 6.30am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, except bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder holds a relevant childcare qualification at level 3.

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