

Childminder Report

Inspection date

25 August 2015

Previous inspection date

25 November 2009

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 forms very strong relationships with children. She gives high priority to promoting their health and safety and successfully encourages positive behaviour.
- Children make good progress in their learning and development and are well prepared for school. They make particularly good progress in their communication and language, and mathematical development. This is because the childminder is skilled at engaging children in conversation and her playful interactions enthuses them.
- The childminder communicates closely with staff at the schools children attend about their progress and needs, and then supports these with complementary play activities.
- The childminder supports children's engagement in exhilarating physical challenges, such as tree climbing and balancing along raised surfaces. This raises children's self-esteem and lays the foundations for them to adopt a positive attitude to exercise.
- The childminder keeps up to date on child protection matters and is very clear about the procedure to follow if concerned about a child's welfare.
- The childminder has a strong commitment towards driving improvements. For example, since the last inspection she has significantly improved her assessment processes so that it is easier for her to track children's progress.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The childminder does not always make the most of opportunities to encourage children to develop their imagination and pretend play.
- The childminder has not explored all possible ways to encourage all children's interest in developing and practising their early writing skills.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- explore different ways to encourage children's hand strength and coordination in preparation for developing their early writing skills
- help children to further develop their understanding of the world and creativity by enhancing the provision for imagination development and role play.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the childminder's home and garden.
- The inspector discussed the childminder's practice with her and the impact of her teaching methods on children's progress.
- The inspector looked at children's progress records, and documentation relating to safeguarding, and children's health and well-being.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents.

Inspector

Amanda Tyson

Inspection findings

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

The childminder provides a stimulating, well-resourced play and learning environment. She has a good understanding of child development and knows children's individual interests. The childminder uses this knowledge well overall, to assess, track and plan for children's progress. For example, she uses children's interest in trains to encourage their learning of colour and she helps children perfect their numeracy skills during games of hide-and-seek. The creative activities the childminder provides do not always interest all children; however, other children thoroughly enjoy the challenges they are set. For example, children enjoy making a miniature garden in an oyster shell using nature items which they spent ages choosing from the garden. The childminder asks children questions that encourage detailed responses. For example, they describe where their toy trains are going, that the bowl of water is heavy and what they are going to do with it. Children benefit greatly from the childminder's enthusiasm for introducing new activities, such as science experiments.

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

Children are very happy and settled at the childminder's. Parents say children talk very fondly about the childminder and the activities they have participated in each day. Children play contentedly and imaginatively in the home environment. They enjoy visiting different community activities and this helps them to be well prepared to transfer to nursery or school later on. The childminder encourages children to develop practical independence and to 'have a go'. When they say 'I can't', for instance put on their shoes, she encourages them to try. The childminder successfully teaches children how to keep themselves safe, for example, when crossing roads and standing on train platforms.

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

The childminder has a good knowledge and understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage and meets the requirements well. She meets regularly with another childminder to explore new practice ideas and to evaluate the effectiveness of her provision. This joint mentoring agreement has a positive effect on children's learning. The childminder also makes good use of local authority training days and conferences to develop her practice. For example, after a recent training she has created more opportunities for children to use their senses in the garden and learnt to be more relaxed about physically adventurous and superhero-type play. The childminder has a good capacity to sustain ongoing improvement. Her current action plan is appropriately focused on refining her processes for completing assessments on children and involving parents even more in the planning for children's progress.

Setting details

Unique reference number	139713
Local authority	Sutton
Inspection number	846516
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	2
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	25 November 2009
Telephone number	

The childminder registered in 1994 and lives in Worcester Park, Surrey. She works Monday to Friday, throughout the year.

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