

Childminder Report

Inspection date

27 July 2015

Previous inspection date

16 December 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 is very well qualified and has a good understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage. She knows how children learn and helps them to gain new skills that prepare them well for the next stage in their learning.
- The childminder observes children and regularly summarises their progress. She uses this information to identify children's next steps in their learning. Developmentally appropriate activities are planned to help children to make good progress in their learning and development.
- Children develop a strong sense of belonging as they form appropriate relationships with the childminder and each other. This reinforces children's self-confidence and emotional well-being, so they feel safe and secure to investigate their environment.
- The childminder demonstrates a professional and committed approach to her work. She strives to continually improve her practice and regularly updates her knowledge and understanding of childcare issues.
- The childminder has a good understanding of her role in safeguarding children. She knows who to contact if she ever has concerns about a child. Effective policies and procedures underpin her good safeguarding practice. The childminder makes daily checks of her home to minimise or eliminate any dangers for children. This helps to ensure children are kept safe from harm.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Occasionally, the childminder misses opportunities to deepen children's thinking as they lead their own play.
- The childminder does not always provide enough information to help parents to complement and enhance children's learning and development at home.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- help children to consistently explore their own ideas, develop their own way for doing things and become more active learners
- enhance the exchange of information with parents about their child's learning and development.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities, speaking to children at appropriate times while they played.
- The inspector jointly evaluated an activity with the childminder.
- The inspector spoke to the childminder about the daily routines and children's individual learning and development.
- The inspector looked at evidence of self-evaluation, children's assessment records and a range of other documentation, including policies and procedures.
- The inspector checked evidence of suitability of the childminder and other members of the household.

Inspector

Kim Barker

Inspection findings

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

Children's communication and language skills are effectively promoted. They talk with the childminder throughout their play and recall recent experiences. The childminder promotes children's early reading skills. Children enjoy listening to stories, joining in with repeated refrains and anticipating phrases. This helps them to learn how to recognise words and understand that print carries meaning. The childminder plans activities to help children to make links with what they have learned from the story. For example, they explore making meaningful marks which relate to the tale. Children choose from a good range of resources and experiences which are based on their own interests. On occasion, however, the childminder misses opportunities to extend children's learning as they lead their own play. This means children are not always supported to develop their own ideas, deepen their thinking and become fully active learners.

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

The childminder is a good role model. There are clear rules and boundaries in place. Children respond positively to the daily routine and their behaviour is appropriate. The childminder gently helps children to refocus their attention, so that they learn to regulate their own behaviour in different situations. Children learn to become independent as they are encouraged to carry out tasks for themselves. This includes good toileting and appropriate handwashing routines. Children develop good levels of self-esteem and acquire key skills in preparation for the move on to nursery. The childminder promotes a healthy lifestyle. Children have regular opportunities for exercise and fresh air in the childminder's garden. They talk about their individual preferences as they enjoy fresh fruit. Children learn about personal differences and this promotes their sense of identity.

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

The childminder is dedicated to improving her knowledge and skills. She reflects on her own practice and ensures her knowledge and skills are continuously enhanced. This includes seeking guidance and support from other local childcare professionals. She has good systems in place to ensure that her mandatory training is up to date. The childminder engages parents in sharing information about their children's development when they first start in her setting. This helps her to identify the starting points for children's learning and how she can help them to learn more. The childminder tracks children's progress and addresses any gaps in their learning. However, systems to share this information with parents are not always highly successful so they can support their child's learning at home. The childminder has developed a professional relationship with other local settings and understands her role in establishing effective partnerships to promote children's learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY344640
Local authority	Staffordshire
Inspection number	863062
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 14
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	4
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	16 December 2010
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 2007 and lives in Tamworth. Her provision operates all year round from 7am until 6pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder holds an appropriate early years qualification at level 5 and provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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