

Childminder Report

Inspection date

11 August 2015

Previous inspection date

20 October 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

- Children use good levels of communication and language. Supported by the childminder, they learn new words with ease and follow instructions well. Children enjoy talking about their home experiences and listening to the contributions of others.
- The childminder knows the children in her care well and offers an informal, relaxed approach to learning. This allows children to be spontaneous in their choice of activities. They learn to be independent, are eager to explore and motivated to learn, and make good progress.
- Children show a good understanding of appropriate behaviour and social skills when playing with others. This contributes towards their emotional well-being in preparation for going to school.
- The childminder builds good partnerships with parents. She talks with them about activities and successfully supports them in extending their children's learning at home.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Partnerships with other settings are not fully extended to share children's learning more extensively, to ensure they make the best possible progress.
- Opportunities for continuous professional development to underpin the already good knowledge and teaching of the childminder are not maximised.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- extend partnerships with other early years settings to fully support all children's ongoing development, share identified gaps in their learning and promote early intervention before children start school
- target professional development opportunities to further enhance the already good knowledge and teaching.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the childminder's house and talked with the childminder.
- The inspector and childminder jointly evaluated a teaching activity.
- The inspector looked at children's assessment records, planning documentation, evidence of suitability of household members, and a range of other documentation, including the safeguarding procedures.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents, as recorded in written questionnaires and reference letters.

Inspector

Clair Stockings

Inspection findings

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

Children are making good progress. The childminder knows the children well and how they learn best. She provides a welcoming environment where children demonstrate that they feel happy and enjoy being with her. The childminder uses a successful assessment programme. She identifies children's starting points, carefully tracks their progress and plans for their next steps in learning. Regular exchange of information about children's achievements and parents' positive contributions to children's assessments ensures children's learning is supported at home. The childminder extends children's mathematical learning during an interesting and varied range of play activities. For example, during water play outdoors, she encourages children to compare the size and count the number of toy boats. This is one of the many ways that the childminder supports children's development and provides a solid base for future learning.

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

Children understand the importance of a healthy lifestyle. They make decisions about food for themselves and help prepare their own meals and snacks. The childminder has a very good awareness of meeting children's individual dietary needs. Children know what to do when the childminder tells them that it is snack time, by washing their hands in the bathroom. This promotes their physical well-being. Children make independent choices in their play and show a great confidence in their relationships with the childminder. She takes time to give each child individual attention, so that they feel they are special and valued. Consequently, the childminder effectively supports children's emotional readiness for future learning. They are very much at home in the childminder's care. The childminder provides a safe and secure environment for children to play and explore. She helps them to take responsibility for their own safety by encouraging them to tidy up when each activity is finished.

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

The childminder has a clear understanding of her responsibilities to meet the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. She shows a true commitment to making continuous improvements to her service. She takes into consideration the views of parents and children and uses these to make successful changes. She actively participates in a local cluster group of other childminders to share good practice. However, she does not consistently enhance her knowledge and support of children's progress further by attending appropriate training courses. She exchanges information with the other settings that children attend to share good practice. However, there is potential to enhance these partnerships further in order to provide children with further continuity in their learning to ensure a more consistent approach.

Setting details

Unique reference number	202579
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	871062
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	6
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	20 October 2011
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 1998 and lives in Loughton. She operates all year round from 7.30am to 6pm, Monday to Thursday, except for bank holidays and family holidays.

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