

Inspection date	24 March 2015
Previous inspection date	28 February 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Satisfactory	3
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 plans interesting and challenging experiences that meet the needs of all children. This promotes their good progress in all the areas of learning.
- The childminder is warm and affectionate with the children. She helps them to form secure attachments and promotes their well-being and independence. As a result, children are settled well and enjoy their time at the setting.
- The childminder has a consistent and caring approach to behaviour management. She offers children lots of praise and support and values their achievements. Consequently, children's behaviour is good and their self-esteem is promoted.
- The childminder regularly takes children on outings into the local community to extend their physical play in nearby parks and increase their awareness of their local environment.
- The childminder's professional development, along with her positive relationships with parents and carers, contributes to assuring children's welfare and promoting their good health and safety.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The childminder has not yet fully established working partnerships with other settings that the children attend. This means that there is not a cohesive approach to maximise children's learning.
- The childminder provides fewer opportunities for children to use their imaginations 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:

- strengthen the working partnerships with other settings the children attend to share purposeful information about children's learning and development to assure a cohesive and collaborative approach is shared to maximise children's learning
- provide more opportunities for children to develop their imagination through creative activities, for example, by providing opportunities for them to explore materials and create using resources that are self-selected and can be used in a variety of ways.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed interactions between the childminder and children during play.
- The inspector looked at a range of documentation, including risk assessments and policies and procedures.
- The inspector spoke with the childminder at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector examined the children's learning development records and observation, planning and assessment procedures.
- The inspector looked at parents' written feedback to gain their views.

Inspector

Tracy Hopkins

Inspection findings

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

Children's learning and development are well supported by the childminder. She fully understands how to support children's development. The quality of teaching is good. Children's communication and language skills are developing well. This is because the childminder talks to them and introduces descriptive language during their play. For example, she uses positional language when building with blocks. This also supports the children's mathematical development. Children are prepared for their next steps in learning, including their eventual move to school. Children thoroughly enjoy looking at books. They are encouraged to think about the book. The childminder asks them questions about what they can see and they discuss the pictures. The childminder creates worthwhile opportunities for children to learn about living things. They enjoy exploring the garden and plant seeds that they then care for. However, there are fewer opportunities for children to use their imagination during creative activities. This is because some activities have a prescribed outcome that does not always allow children to express their individuality.

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

The childminder makes the children's transition from home smooth because she takes great interest in their individual likes and dislikes. Consequently, children are happy and content because of the effective settling-in arrangements. Children are emotionally well-prepared for their next stage in learning. The childminder ensures children's individual needs are continuously met. The childminder's home is safe and secure. Fire drills are practised monthly and all children are given the opportunity to take part. This means that they know how to evacuate quickly, should the need arise. Good hygiene procedures mean that children learn the importance of hand washing before eating. They develop a good understanding of healthy eating through eating fruit and other healthy snacks. The childminder consistently manages behaviour well with a positive attitude. The childminder engages children in thinking about the consequences of their actions.

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

The childminder has completed further training in safeguarding. The detailed policy underpins her practice and includes procedures for managing any concerns. Appropriate checks have been completed for adults in the household. The childminder is aware of the importance of partnership working with parents. She cares for children who attend the local school and other provisions. Working partnerships between the childminder and the professionals at these settings have not yet been fully established. Purposeful information about children's next steps in learning is not always shared. This means that the childminder does not always plan and implement activities that complement and maximise this learning. However, children are making good progress. This is because the childminder takes time to evaluate activities and make changes to improve the outcomes for children.

Setting details

Unique reference number	252642
Local authority	Nottinghamshire
Inspection number	818435
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	5
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	28 February 2011
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 1995 and lives in Mansfield, Nottinghamshire. She operates all year round from 7.30am to 5.30pm, Monday to Thursday, except for bank holidays and family holidays.

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