

Childminder Report

Inspection date

25 June 2015

Previous inspection date

29 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

- Children make very good progress in their literacy because staff make learning fun. Children look forward to learning phonics each day. This is good support for their next stages in development, including school.
- The childminder follows children's interests so they are motivated and engaged. A varied programme of daily visits to different play groups gives children a wide range of different experiences.
- The childminder and her assistant nurture children well and share in children's excitement. As a result, strong relationships are built and children are emotionally secure.
- Children are cooperative and well behaved because the childminder and her assistant give them clear messages about what is expected. They are good role models and encourage children to take turns.
- The childminder invites parents to comment on their observations of their child's development at age two. She uses this information to inform further discussion about children's progress.
- The childminder includes the views of parents, children and her assistant to evaluate her provision. Self-evaluation is very good because it identifies clear actions.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The childminder does not fully maximise opportunities for babies to explore their curiosity. This is because there is not always an accessible selection of sensory resources for them to investigate in their own play.
- The childminder does not always organise the indoor environment highly effectively, so that children have space to use toys and equipment fully in their imaginative play.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance sensory experiences for babies so that they are motivated to explore and find things out by themselves
- improve the organisation of the indoor environment to support children's learning more effectively.

Inspection activities

- The inspector checked evidence of the suitability and qualifications of the childminder and her assistant.
- The inspector observed the childminder and her assistant engage in a range of activities and care routines with children.
- The inspector held discussions with the childminder and her assistant.
- The inspector looked at a selection of policies and procedures.
- The inspector spoke with parents to gain their views.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the childminder.

Inspector

Lisa Bolton

Inspection findings

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

The childminder develops effective strategies to settle children in because she listens to parents. The childminder and her assistant have good teaching skills and they understand how children learn. They are particularly skilled in providing challenges to encourage older children to think. For example, children say numbers and colours when they catch toy fish using fishing rods. They are further challenged to find fish with specific numbers and colours. This is good support for their mathematical development. However, there are fewer experiences to encourage babies to use their natural curiosity during their own play. For example, sensory play baskets are positioned too high for babies to reach and they do not contain a highly stimulating range of sounds, textures and sights. The childminder communicates effectively with parents to reassure them of their child's well-being and to share information about their achievements. Parents are encouraged to contribute comments and photos through an online system. Children's learning files are shared with parents and the childminder talks with them daily to discuss children's needs and progress.

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

The childminder and her assistant understand how children develop. They put effective routines into place to support children's healthy development. The childminder works with parents to wean children off dummies. For example, young children are asked to remove their dummies when they wake. Children quickly become independent in self-care and are motivated to use the toilet by themselves. This is because the childminder and her assistant give lots of praise to celebrate small steps towards becoming independent. The childminder provides lots of resources for children to choose from. However, the amount of space for children's imaginative play is limited because there are too many toys available at once. For example, children pretending to be mums struggle to push prams around because they do not have a clear pathway. The childminder ensures that children's physical well-being is effectively supported through daily outdoor play during their play group visits.

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

The childminder has good procedures in place to protect children from harm. Safe practices in the home and on trips help to reduce risk. The childminder knows what to do if she suspects abuse and her assistant has a good understanding of safeguarding. The childminder has a good knowledge of the Early Years Foundation Stage. She accurately assesses children to review their progress and she knows what to do if there are gaps in a child's learning. The childminder and her assistant are well qualified which supports children's learning and well-being. They work as an effective team because they bring different experiences and strengths to the provision. The childminder reviews the practice of her assistant through regular supervision and appraisals. She is also reflective about her own practice and keen to improve.

Setting details

Unique reference number	256176
Local authority	Lancashire
Inspection number	866998
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	12
Number of children on roll	14
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	29 March 2011
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 1994. She lives in a house in Chorley. The childminder holds a childcare qualification at level 3. She has an assistant who holds an appropriate early years qualification at level 3. The provision operates all year round from 6am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays.

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