

Inspection date	4 March 2015
Previous inspection date	8 June 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 organises a varied range of activities for children to support their learning. Consequently, children make good progress in their development.
- Children develop good communication and language skills. This builds confidence during their play and interactions with the childminder.
- The childminder promotes effective partnerships with parents, to fully support children's learning at home.
- Children enjoy healthy snacks and meals and take part in daily exercise which promotes their good health.
- The childminder has extensive experience in providing high-quality childcare. She keeps her training up to date which has had a good impact on the learning experiences she offers children.
- Children behave well; the childminder is proactive in promoting positive behaviour using praise and rewards, which helps children learn to respect and tolerate others.
- Safeguarding is a priority for the childminder. She knows how to keep children safe and demonstrates a good knowledge and understanding of the procedures to follow if she has concerns about a child.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The childminder does not consistently promote healthy hygiene routines for children prior to snack time, and does not always encourage children to sit down to eat.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- develop greater consistency in promoting healthy hygiene routines for children, particularly prior to snack times, and consistently encourage children to sit down to eat.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the childminder's home both inside and in the garden.
- The inspector spoke to the childminder and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the childminder.
- The inspector took into consideration the views of parents.
- The inspector looked at children's records, planning documentation, and a range of other documentation, including policies and procedures.

Inspector

Patricia Pickens

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 good variety of activities to promote children's learning and development across the seven areas of learning. Children develop independence and choice with unlimited access to a wide range of toys and resources. Children enjoy creating butterflies they had observed in the garden. The childminder is nearby to offer support and makes good use of opportunities to repeat children's language and introduce new words. As a result, children are making good progress in their communication and language skills. The childminder introduces mathematical concepts within children's play; for example, when children build a dark den from blankets and use torches to make shadows she encourages them to develop their problem-solving skills by asking children to compare sizes and shapes. The childminder promotes children's learning by consistently using opportunities to reinforce their understanding and extend children's skills in counting and recognising numbers as they jump through hoops at different heights. Regular sharing of information about children's achievements and parents' positive contributions to children's assessments ensures children's learning is supported at home.

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

The childminder's home is safe and welcoming. Children enjoy positive relationships with the childminder and receive consistent reassurance. Children have many opportunities to be active and enjoy physical play in the garden, where they engage in running, jumping and exercise, important to their health. The childminder meets their individual dietary needs with wholesome home-cooked meals. However, the childminder does not consistently ensure children wash their hands before snack or remind children of appropriate routines, such as sitting down to eat. Children benefit from regular trips to toddler groups to develop their social skills and confidence. The childminder helps children to develop a good understanding of the diversity within the group. She talks about differing abilities and supporting each other to achieve. Children develop positive attitudes to others and to learning that help them get ready for the move on to nursery or school.

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

The childminder has a secure knowledge of the learning and development requirements and how to keep children safe. She assesses risks in the environment regularly and involves children in making rules to keep her home safe. The childminder is dedicated to promoting a good quality provision for children. She has developed effective systems for evaluating what is working and what she needs to improve. She regularly seeks the views of children and parents to use in her planning. The childminder monitors how well the children are doing in their learning and shares their progress with parents. Effective partnerships with other settings help to maintain continuity for children at home and on into school. Effective systems for identifying her personal training needs and updating her knowledge improves teaching. This results in children having good quality care and learning opportunities throughout the day.

Setting details

Unique reference number	304063
Local authority	Cheshire West and Chester
Inspection number	867515
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	8 June 2009
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 1987 and lives in Neston, Wirral. She operates all year round from 7am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays.

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