

Childminder Report

Inspection date

16 June 2015

Previous inspection date

13 October 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 broad range of well-planned activities for children, both indoors and outdoors. As a result, children are motivated, eager to learn and make good progress in their learning.
- The childminder has secure and trusting relationships with children. This effectively promotes their emotional well-being. As a result, they are happy, settled and confidently explore the environment.
- Partnerships with parents are very good. The childminder regularly shares information with them about their child's progress and how they can support their learning at home.
- Children are safe and protected from harm. The childminder has a good understanding of safeguarding procedures and assesses risks to her home and on outings. The childminder holds a valid a first-aid certificate and has appropriate insurance.
- Children's good health is promoted through positive food choices, regular access to the garden and visits to the local community.
- The childminder demonstrates a commitment to continuous developments. Therefore, she effectively prioritises improvements that will benefit children.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The childminder does not always give children sufficient time to think for themselves during activities.
- Opportunities for children to practise their self-help skills at snack and mealtimes 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:

- allow children more time during activities to think for themselves and share ideas
- provide more opportunities at snack and mealtimes for children to practise their self-help skills, for example, including them in tasks, such as setting the table, serving food and pouring their own drinks.

Inspection activities

- The inspector viewed the premises, toys and equipment.
- The inspector observed the childminder playing and interacting with children.
- The inspector spoke to the childminder and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector checked evidence of the childminder's qualifications and the suitability of all household members.
- The inspector took account of the information provided in the childminder's portfolio and parents' comments provided for the inspection.

Inspector

Donna Birch

Inspection findings

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

The childminder uses her good knowledge of individual children to promote their learning and development through play and planned activities. Children are active explorers and engage in a wide variety of activities that have depth and breadth across the curriculum. Children develop their muscle skills as they use their fingers and hands to feel, spread and poke the flour and water mixture. Older children use their imagination and good language skills, as they describe the texture and colour of the mixture. Babies pat the mixture and watch with fascination as they pour it on to a tray. However, at times the childminder intervenes in children's play too quickly. This does not always allow them sufficient time to test their ideas and follow their own thinking. Children are confident communicators. The childminder asks them lots of questions as they play, which helps to extend their vocabulary and understanding. Children develop their mathematical skills as they are encouraged to count in everyday routines. The childminder discusses concepts with children, such as shape, measure and proportion. Consequently, children are acquiring the skills to be ready for future learning.

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

Children access the outdoors every day and enjoy visits to the local allotment where they help the childminder grow fresh fruit and vegetables. This helps children develop an understanding of leading a healthy lifestyle and promotes their physical health. Resources are attractively presented and labelled. This helps children make independent choices as they play. Older children independently use the toilet and wash and dry their own hands. However, the childminder does not always include children in tasks, such as setting the table, preparing food and pouring their own drinks. This does not maximise opportunities for children to practise their self-help skills. Therefore, sometimes children become a little frustrated while waiting at the table. The childminder is a good role model. Children follow her simple rules and know what is expected of them. Consequently, they behave very well given their age and stage of development. Children learn to stay safe as they tidy away the toys and are involved in regular fire evacuation drills.

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

The childminder's documentation is well organised and underpins her practice well. Her home is safe and secure. The childminder is well qualified and experienced and has attended training courses to update her knowledge and skills. As a result, she is able to improve outcomes for children. Parents and children are included in the self-evaluation of the setting. They make regular contributions and, consequently, the childminder makes meaningful changes to the setting. She monitors the curriculum and tracks children's development in all areas of learning to ensure they make consistently good progress. Effective communication with other settings children attend is used well. Therefore, there is a shared approach to ensure children's future success.

Setting details

Unique reference number	308454
Local authority	Lancashire
Inspection number	867807
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	12
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	13 October 2009
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 1999 and lives in Accrington, Lancashire. She operates all year round from 7am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, except bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder has an early years qualification at level 3.

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