

Childminder Report

Inspection date

8 September 2015

Previous inspection date

24 November 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Good	2
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Good	2
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Good	2
Outcomes for children		Good	2

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- Children have many different opportunities to be physically active and are supported to lead a healthy lifestyle. Children grow and harvest their own fruit and vegetables in the childminder's garden. They cook and eat the produce as part of meals and snacks. Children enjoy many visit and trips in the local community.
- The childminder provides children with a welcoming and stimulating learning environment. Children access a good range of age-appropriate resources and make independent choices in their play. They are motivated and eager to explore.
- Safeguarding is effective. The childminder has attended safeguarding training and is knowledgeable about her role and responsibility to protect children. She holds a valid first-aid certificate, which means she is equipped to deal with any emergencies.
- The childminder is well qualified and experienced. She uses her good knowledge of the different areas of learning to ensure activities and experiences offered to children have depth and breadth across the curriculum and are linked to their individual interests.
- The childminder conducts regular and accurate self-evaluation of her setting. She includes the views of parents and children and makes the necessary improvements.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Opportunities for children to follow their own thinking and ideas during planned activities are not maximised.
- The childminder does not always seek the views of parents about their children's level of development and learning from home at the start of placement.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- provide even more opportunities during planned activities for children to be able to follow their own thinking and ideas
- gather more consistently parents' views about their children's learning when they first begin at the setting, and use this information to shape activities and experiences provided to children, in order to maximise learning.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector spoke to the childminder and the children throughout the inspection.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation, such as the childminder's self-evaluation, policies and procedures and evidence of the suitability of adults living at the home.
- The inspector discussed self-evaluation with the childminder and took account of the views of parents made available for inspection.

Inspector

Donna Birch

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The childminder implements the statutory and other government requires effectively. Self-evaluation is used positively by the childminder. Recent consultations with parents and children have enabled her to make meaningful changes. For example, she now uses texts and mobile applications to keep parents even more informed of their child's day and learning. The childminder has also worked closely with her early years consultant to improve her systems for observation, assessment and planning. Monitoring of children's progress is carried out regularly. The childminder has worked with her local authority early years team to complete her childminding portfolio. This underpins her practice and ensures she has all required documentation in place. Arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The childminder supports children to stay safe. She has conducted risk assessments of her home and for outings.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Children talk to the childminder and include her in their play. Children discuss their family members and use tools and equipment to formulate their ideas. However, the childminder does not always closely follow children's lead in play. For example, she steers their attention to complete an activity sheet, rather than their own explorations. This does not maximise opportunities for children to follow through their own thinking and ideas. The childminder asks children lots of questions as they play and introduces concepts, such as colours, shapes and numbers. As a result, children's understanding of these is extended well. The childminder conducts regular and precise observations of children's learning and interests. She uses this information to plan meaningful activities and experiences. Children of all ages and stages make good progress in their learning.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

The childminder knows children well. Settling-in sessions are flexible and help children to feel at ease in the setting. The childminder works with parents during this time to ensure children have familiar experiences. However, she does not consistently ask parents about children's current level of learning on entry. This means she does not always have enough information to ensure planned activities maximise children's learning. Children develop good independence skills. They gather their own shoes and coats before they go outside and wash their own hands and face after meals. The childminder closely follows children's individual routines as discussed with parents. This helps children to feel emotionally secure. The childminder is a good role model. She uses age-appropriate strategies and simple explanations to help children understand rules and boundaries. This means children are supported to behave well and develop their social skills.

Outcomes for children are good

Timely and accurate observations and assessments are in place and used well. This means the outcomes for children are good. Children make better than typical progress and are well prepared for the next stage of their learning and school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	309111
Local authority	Lancashire
Inspection number	867845
Type of provision	Childminder
Day care type	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	3
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	24 November 2011
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 2007 and lives in Rossendale. She operates all year round from 7.30am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, except bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder holds an appropriate qualification at level 3.

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