

Inspection date

5 March 2015

Previous inspection date

13 July 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 develops strong relationships with children and their families through a sensitive approach to settling them into her setting. As a result, children are very settled and happy.
- The childminder has good knowledge of how to safeguard children. She is clear about the procedures to follow should she have a concern about a child in her care. Consequently, children are kept safe.
- The childminder effectively evaluates the training that she attends. This helps to identify how she can implement new ideas to meet the needs of children she cares for.
- The childminder regularly attends community groups. This enables her to share and discuss best practice with other childminder's and children's social skills are developed, preparing them well for school.
- The childminder has good knowledge of the Early Years Foundation Stage. She understands how children learn and provides them with an exciting and interesting educational programme. As a result, children develop the key skills required for the next stage of their learning.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The childminder does not always share enough information with parents to help them continue their child's learning at home.
- Children are not always given enough time to develop their own ideas and lead their own learning because occasionally the childminder overly directs activities.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen existing good partnerships with parents, by providing them with information about how they can better guide their child's learning at home, to support a more shared approach, so that children make even better progress in their learning and development
- enhance teaching skills, for example, by recognising when to stand back and give children more time to explore independently, develop their ideas and learn at their own pace.

Inspection activities

- The inspector viewed all areas of the premises used for childminding.
- The inspector observed children taking part in activities.
- The inspector viewed and discussed with the childminder a sample of documentation and discussed self-evaluation.
- The inspector spoke with the childminder and children at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector checked evidence of qualifications and the suitability of the childminder and other household members.

Inspector

Kellie Lever

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 range of activities across the seven areas of learning. She offers a stimulating learning environment where children access a wide range of toys and play equipment. Young children enjoy exploring things and are supported well to develop their imagination and creativity. For example, they experiment with mixing different coloured paint. The childminder joins in their play and provides resources to further enhance their learning, such as rollers and fabric mitts. Children create patterns and shapes in the paint and become fascinated with their creations. However, at times the activity becomes too overly directed because the childminder does not give children enough time to explore independently. As a result, they do not always develop their own ideas and learn at their own pace.

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

The childminder has created a warm and welcoming environment making children feel at home. The childminder gives lots of praise and reassurance to children and they thrive on the focused attention that they are given. For example, they sit together and look at books, constantly talking and sharing their views and opinions. As a result, children's language and conversational skills are well developed. In addition to this, children's self-esteem is boosted by them being listened to and by someone being interested in what they have to say. Children's healthy lifestyles are promoted through regular exercise and positive food choices. They have access to plenty of fresh air, play in the garden and take trips out to local parks and shops. As a result, children are active and develop their physical skills.

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

The childminder has a secure understanding and high expectations in her role. She has a selection of written policies and procedures to underpin her effective practice. Observation, planning and assessment systems are accurate. This enables the childminder to monitor children's progress and identify any gaps in order to seek advice from external professionals, if necessary. The childminder has a good relationship with parents. She gathers information from them about their child's care needs and their development when they start. However, the childminder does not always provide parents with enough information about activities she has planned and how they can further support their children's learning at home. As a result, a shared approach to support children's progress is not fully maximised. The childminder manages her provision well. She has action plans in place, reflects on her practice and considers ways to improve experiences for the children. As a result, she has a clear vision for driving improvement and is committed to promoting a good quality provision for children and parents.

Setting details

Unique reference number	310697
Local authority	Sefton
Inspection number	867960
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	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	13 July 2009
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 1993. She lives in the Aintree area of Liverpool. She operates all year round from 7.30am to 5.30pm, Monday to Friday, except bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder holds an appropriate childcare qualification at level 3.

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