

Inspection date	24 February 2015
Previous inspection date	28 April 2009

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Satisfactory	3
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Outstanding	1
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Outstanding	1
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Outstanding	1
The setting meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- The quality of teaching is outstanding because the childminder has an excellent understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage and how young children learn. She uses a rich and varied range of responsive interactions to support and extend children's learning. As a result, they make excellent progress in relation to their individual starting points.
- The childminder sets out her home with enriching learning opportunities, provided through a varied range of resources. These are well organised and presented across the three main rooms, maximising the available space and encouraging children to choose things for themselves. As a result, children are exhibiting the characteristics of being highly motivated and inquisitive learners.
- The childminder has a very calm, caring and patient manner, she gives children individual attention which ensures that each child feels valued and that their emotional well-being is supported exceedingly well.
- The childminder uses a highly effective range of ways to clearly outline the progress that children are making and to communicate very regularly with parents on all aspects of children's care. In this way, parents are closely supported to become highly involved in their child's welfare and learning.
- Children's safety and well-being are highly prioritised. Robust risk assessment, stringent safety measures and highly comprehensive safeguarding procedures ensure that children feel safe and are secure.
- The childminder is very pro-active in evaluating her provision and researching and incorporating different ways of working to benefit the children placed with her. She is committed to her own professional development and has recently completed a relevant early years qualification. As a result, she has a very strong capacity to further improve this already outstanding setting.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance the already excellent outdoor provision by providing greater opportunities for all children to learn about the natural world, for example, by extending growing and planting activities.

Inspection activities

- The inspector viewed the areas used for childminding, she talked to the children and childminder at appropriate times throughout the inspection and observed a variety of activities.
- The inspector looked at evidence of the suitability and qualifications of the childminder as well as a selection of policies and procedures, including safeguarding and discussed risk assessments and the childminder's self-evaluation process.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the childminder. She discussed children's learning and development and sampled their records and looked at the planning documentation.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents by reading a number of comments on questionnaires and letters given to the childminder.

Inspector

Rachel Howell

Inspection findings

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

The childminder's excellent communication with parents ensures that she has a very in-depth understanding of children's current needs and preferences. She uses this information, and her own observations, to effectively plan very relevant experiences to extend children's thinking, interests and learning. For example, children's attention is captured excellently in the stimulating role-play 'baby hospital'. This supports children as they prepare for new siblings, and links to a new experience theme about 'our bodies'. Assessments are meticulous and enable the childminder to quickly identify any gaps in children's development. She also outlines next steps in their learning and clearly shares these with parents. Children's communication and social skills are rapidly promoted because the childminder interacts very successfully with them. Lovely conversations evolve through play. The childminder carefully builds on each child's language skills and makes sure they all have time to express themselves. Consequently, all children, are making rapid progress in their readiness for school, including those whose needs or circumstances require particularly perceptive intervention and additional support.

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

Children are learning to understand simple rules and boundaries to keep themselves and others safe, such as sharing with their friends and putting things back when they have finished with them. They show their growing understanding of caring for others as they readily use the role-play doctor's kit to help tend to their friend who has hurt his hand. As a result, children's personal, social and emotional development is being promoted very well. The childminder maintains highly effective hygiene practices at all times. The premises are clean and well-organised to meet children's needs. The outside space is well managed and organised, children are provided with a wealth of activities and equipment outside. However, there is still some scope to further enhance and extend children's enthusiasm for growing things and caring for their natural habitat.

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

The childminder is extremely enthusiastic, highly motivated and fully committed to her work. Since the last inspection, she has developed her knowledge extensively and all previous recommendations have been fully met. The childminder has made immense progress in her practice. She has implemented exceptionally comprehensive systems to ensure that all documentation and aspects of her provision reflect current legislation and high quality practice. The childminder supports the sharing of a vast amount of information between herself, parents and other providers of settings that children attend. This covers communication about all aspects of their care and learning. This is done through daily conversations, two-way diaries, comprehensive learning folders and instant messaging. Parental comments on questionnaires and letters are extremely positive. They typically comment that the childminder is very nurturing and that she always goes 'above and beyond' with the care and support she provides for the children.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY101162
Local authority	Northamptonshire
Inspection number	877302
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	10
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	28 April 2009
Telephone number	

The childminder registered in 2002 and lives in Northampton. She operates all year round, from 7am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, except bank holidays. The childminder currently provides funded early education for two-year-old children. She has a relevant qualification at level 3.

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