

Inspection date

1 April 2015

Previous inspection date

13 March 2009

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
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 childminder has an excellent knowledge of how children learn through play and demonstrates highly effective teaching. She works closely with her assistant to plan a wealth of activities that match children's interests and needs.
- Observation, planning and assessment arrangements are extensive, enabling children to make excellent progress in their learning and development. Consequently, children are very well prepared for school.
- Children are extremely happy and settle well in this friendly, caring, homely environment. They form excellent relationships with the childminder, her family and her assistant.
- The childminder manages children's behaviour calmly and consistently through positive approaches. She keeps them busy with interesting things that they want to do, so their behaviour is exemplary.
- Safeguarding is given the highest priority by the childminder. She is very knowledgeable and experienced in this area and ensures children are well protected. Thorough risk assessments are carried out to ensure the premises are secure and dangers are minimised.
- The childminder conducts thorough and regular evaluation of her own practice and that of her assistant. Together they strive for ongoing excellence and are uncompromising in their pursuit of providing rich and high quality experiences for children. Parents' and children's views are also very much valued and play an important part in the ongoing development of the setting.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- explore even more ways to help all parents to share information about what their children do at home to contribute to the already excellent activity planning.

Inspection activities

- The inspector viewed the premises, toys and equipment.
- The inspector observed activities in the home and carried out a joint observation with the childminder.
- The inspector spoke with the childminder and the children at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector looked at children's assessment records and planning documentation.
- The inspector checked evidence of suitability and qualifications of the childminder, her assistant and household members.
- The inspector took into account the views of parents provided in written form.

Inspector

Lindsey Pollock

Inspection findings

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

Highly effective systems are in place to make precise assessments of children's development. Next steps for their learning are clearly identified and inform activity planning. The childminder helps children as needed without restricting their independence. For example, she appreciates children's determination to cut their own ribbon as they make an Easter hat and supports them to do this independently. She builds their confidence as she praises them for their efforts, not just for the end result. As a result, children are motivated and enthusiastic learners who are confident to follow their own ideas. The childminder seizes teaching opportunities during routine daily activities. She encourages children to help set the table, make choices about what fruit they would like, and counts with them as they cut their banana. Thoughtful questioning and giving children time to consider their responses helps them to think of ideas and find new ways to do things. As children approach the time they will start school, the childminder plans more focused activities. Circle times and small group times promote children's communication and language skills and their social development extremely well. This ensures children have the necessary attributes to make a positive start in the next stage of their learning.

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

Children use an excellent range of high-quality toys and resources. Additionally, extensive use is made of outings and visits to complement the learning opportunities offered in the setting. This includes activities at the library and swimming pool. The childminder promotes children's health and physical development extremely well. Children are given every opportunity to be active in the outdoor environment and hygienic routines are followed. Mealtimes are sociable occasions when the childminder and children sit and chat together and share healthy, nutritious food. These times are also used to develop children's independence and understanding of safety. For example, the childminder teaches them how to use cutlery safely. Clear messages are given to children about road safety when on outings.

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

The knowledge and skills that the childminder has as a result of her level 3 qualification are reflected well in this outstanding provision. She supplements her first-rate knowledge of childcare, by attending training and liaising with local authority advisors and childminding colleagues. The work of her assistant is closely monitored and evaluated. The childminder supports her assistant to attend training. Parents describe the childminding provision as exceptional. The childminder consults fully with them about their child's care. However, she has not explored additional ways to maximise all parents contributions to their child's learning while at the setting. The childminder fully understands child protection procedures and the action she must take should she be concerned about a child. She ensures her assistant is also knowledgeable and understands her responsibilities so children's welfare is assured at all times.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY229806
Local authority	North Yorkshire
Inspection number	855779
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	12
Number of children on roll	11
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	13 March 2009
Telephone number	

The childminder registered in 2002 and lives in Northallerton. She operates all year round from 7.30am to 5.30pm, Monday to Friday, except bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder occasionally works with an assistant. She provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. She has a level 3 qualification.

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Piccadilly Gate
Store St
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 4234
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