

Inspection date	27 January 2015
Previous inspection date	29 March 2012

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Satisfactory	3
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 demonstrates high expectations of children. She regularly observes them and uses this information to plan interesting and challenging activities to extend their learning. As a result, children make good progress in all areas of their learning.
- The childminder effectively supports children's critical thinking skills as she interacts sensitively with them and allows them time to explore their own ideas. This helps children to develop the skills they require to prepare them for their next stage of learning.
- The childminder has warm and caring relationships with the children. As a result, they feel comfortable and confident at her setting.
- The childminder promotes children's health well by socialising with them during meals to talk about healthy foods. As a result, children develop an understanding of how to look after their bodies.
- The childminder has a good knowledge of the signs and symptoms of abuse and how to report concerns regarding children's welfare. As a result, she is able to keep children safe from harm.
- The childminder demonstrates a commitment to continuously improve her provision through her procedures for self-evaluation and a willingness to undertake further training, including her own research, in order to promote better outcomes for children.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The childminder has not yet fully embedded the recent changes to her assessment and tracking procedures to confidently share children's progress and achievements.
- Occasionally, young toddlers cannot access some resources without the support of the childminder. This means that opportunities to promote their independence 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:

- fully embed the new procedures for tracking and assessing children's progress, in order to maximise parents' opportunities to support children's learning at home
- maximise the opportunities for young toddlers to develop their independence by storing favourite resources at an accessible height.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the indoor area and jointly evaluated an activity with the childminder.
- The inspector considered the views of parents recorded by the childminder.
- The inspector spoke with the childminder at appropriate times during the inspection and discussed her self-evaluation.
- The inspector sampled documentation, including children's learning records and information, risk assessments and policies.
- The inspector checked evidence of the suitability of the childminder and other adults living in the home and her qualifications, including paediatric first aid.

Inspector

Lauren Grocott

Inspection findings

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

The childminder has a good understanding of how children develop and the Early Years Foundation Stage requirements. She uses her knowledge of each child's interests from her own observations and initial assessments conducted with their parents to plan challenging activities. The childminder encourages children to become active learners by offering them uninterrupted time to repeat activities and praises them for their achievements. For example, children's critical thinking skills are effectively promoted as they learn about cause and effect by repeatedly pushing shapes into a shape sorter to make a toy pop out. The childminder engages sensitively with children to allow them time to explore their own ideas, such as when they play imaginatively with dolls and role-play equipment. As a result, all children are effectively supported in their progress towards the early learning goals

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

The childminder fosters children's emotional well-being effectively. She gets to know them by asking their parents for important information about their preferences and routines. She uses this information in her planning. The childminder is a good role model for children and manages their behaviour well. She helps them to become ready for a move to nursery or school by, for example, developing their understanding of boundaries and rules. However, the childminder does not maximise opportunities for young toddlers to develop their independence as sometimes resources are stored just out of their reach. Despite this, children enjoy playing with a range of interesting resources in the welcoming learning environment. Children's understanding of how to keep themselves safe is well supported by the childminder as she reminds them of potential hazards. They have daily opportunities for outdoor play to learn about taking safe risks and to promote their enjoyment of physical exercise.

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

The childminder uses her observations and assessments of children's progress to monitor their development and the educational programmes. This enables her to identify areas of learning that are less than expected and secure interventions where appropriate. The childminder develops good relationships with parents and other early years settings. However, her systems for sharing observations and assessments of children's progress with parents and other professionals are relatively new and not yet fully embedded in practice. As a result, occasionally, the opportunities for parents to enhance children's learning further at home, are not maximised. The childminder has a good understanding of her responsibility to keep children safe, including a good knowledge of local safeguarding procedures. She regularly risk assesses her home as well as any outings undertaken to effectively identify and minimise any hazards and has vetting checks conducted for adults living in her home.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY250920
Local authority	Wirral
Inspection number	948869
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	17
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	29 March 2012
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 2003 and lives in the West Kirby area of the Wirral. She operates all year round from 7am to 6.30pm, Monday to Friday, except bank holidays and family holidays.

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