

Inspection date	19 February 2015
Previous inspection date	7 January 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 has effective methods to observe and assess the progress children make in their learning. She uses the information she gathers well to plan enjoyable activities that help children to make good progress in all the areas of learning.
- Children benefit from affectionate relationships with the childminder and her family. As a result, they are happy and enjoy their time in the childminder's care.
- Children play in a safe and secure environment. They learn how to keep themselves safe through practical routines, such as practising the fire drill and finding safe places to cross roads.
- The childminder promotes children's communication and language skills well. She enthusiastically joins in their play and asks questions about their activities, encouraging conversation and enabling children to talk about what they know.
- The childminder works well with other settings the children attend, such as schools and pre-schools. She shares children's assessments and talks to staff to support their continuity of care and learning.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Opportunities for children to develop their independence skills are, occasionally, not maximised because there is a tendency for the childminder to do things for them.
- Information about children's next steps is not always shared effectively with all parents, so they can extend further their children's learning at home.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen opportunities that extend children's already good independence skills, for example, by enabling them to prepare their own foods and using equipment, such as scissors and tape
- broaden the information given to parents about what their children need to do next in their learning, so that they can continue that learning at home.

Inspection activities

- The inspector looked at areas of the home used for childminding.
- The inspector spoke to the childminder and the children at convenient times during the inspection.
- A range of documentation was looked at, including some policies and procedures. Suitability checks for the family, children's development records and the childminder's self-evaluation.
- The inspector observed the children at play and their interactions with the childminder.

Inspector

Veronica Sharpe

Inspection findings

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

The childminder organises her home well so that children move around freely and safely. Children benefit from easily accessible resources that reflect their individual interests, such as role-play materials. The childminder knows children well and understands their individual learning styles. As a result, children make good progress in their learning. The childminder plays alongside the children, she gets down to their level and has fun with them. Young children enjoy affectionate cuddles and they play confidently alongside her. The childminder echoes their language and encourages them to babble to her. Older children enjoy talking to her about their activities. She asks them skilful questions that promote their thinking, such as 'What colour is Minnie's bow?' As children build a castle with blocks she talks to them about size and shape, extending their mathematical skills. The childminder shares children's achievements with parents every day and provides regular updates on children's progress. However, she does not always share her plans for children's next steps, to enable parents to contribute even more effectively to their children's learning at home.

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

The childminder has close, affectionate relationships with the children. She encourages parents to settle their children in gradually. She collects ample information about children's routines and their likes and dislikes, so she can meet their needs. Children benefit from fresh air and exercise every day. They play on the beach and visit parks and play areas. The childminder takes children to local attractions, such as an open farm, so they can learn about the world around them. The childminder is a positive role-model to the children, she encourages polite behaviour and teaches children about sharing and taking turns. The children have good relationships with each other and enjoy each other's company. The childminder helps children to develop the skills they need for school. For example, she encourages them to wash their hands independently. However, she does not consistently extend this into other areas. For example, enabling children to prepare their own foods, or using equipment, such as tape dispensers.

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

The childminder has a secure understanding of safeguarding procedures. She regularly attends child protection training, which helps her to keep children safe from abuse or neglect. Documentation, including policies and procedures that keep parents informed about the provision, is well-maintained and easily accessible. The childminder meets with other childminders and researches independently to ensure she remains up-to-date with current requirements. She has recently reviewed the new guidance relating to the Special educational needs Code of Practice. The childminder asks parents for their views on the quality of her childminding service and regularly updates her self-evaluation. Parents are positive about the quality of the provision and praise the childminder for being professional, helpful and caring.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY253866
Local authority	Norfolk
Inspection number	860393
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	7
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	7 January 2009
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 2003 and lives with her family in Heacham, Norfolk. She offers her childminding service Monday to Thursday all year round. The childminder provides funding for eligible three- and four-year-old children.

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