

Childminder Report

Inspection date

26 August 2015

Previous inspection date

30 November 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

- Children's emotional development is effectively supported by the strong attachments they build with the childminder.
- Children are kept safe because the childminder has a good understanding of safeguarding issues. She ensures hazards are identified and minimised through comprehensive risk assessments.
- Children have regular opportunities for outside play. They develop good balance and coordination as they use the space for fun activities, such as making dens.
- The childminder has a robust knowledge and understanding about how to effectively protect children from harm. She is fully aware of who to contact with regard to any concerns about children in her care.
- The childminder develops strong relationships with all parents, carers and other providers. This makes sure that children's welfare needs are identified and met.
- The childminder plans a broad range of activities for children to support them making good progress in their learning. This prepares them well for the next stage in their learning, such as school.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The childminder does not always seek enough information from parents when children first start to help her plan precisely for their learning from the outset.
- The childminder does not always make the most of her evaluations to reflect closely on the quality of her practice.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- reflect more closely on the quality of teaching to build further on professional development and raise children's achievements to the highest level
- gather more information from parents about what children already know and can do when they start to build on children's learning from the beginning.

Inspection activities

- The inspector looked at those parts of the childminder's home used for the care of children.
- The inspector observed teaching and learning activities indoors.
- The inspector looked at a sample of procedures and children's records.
- The inspector checked the childminder's self-evaluation form.
- The inspector spoke with the childminder and children at appropriate times during the inspection.

Inspector

Lesley Bott

Inspection findings

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

The well-qualified childminder has a good understanding of how children learn and develop. She helps children to make good progress in their learning and development. Children have opportunities to engage in a wide range of stimulating activities because the childminder plans around their interests. Consequently, children make good progress in their learning and development. Children are active learners with highly developed language skills and often take the lead during activities. There is a good balance between adult-led activities and child-initiated play. The childminder uses a running commentary and introduces new vocabulary with younger children as they play. She compares objects and uses discussion to develop children's understanding of simple concepts, such as similar and different colours. The childminder effectively supports children to acquire and develop their physical skills. Children enjoy using different materials to paint. However, the childminder does not gain enough information from parents about what their child already knows and can do when they start. Children take a delight in looking at books and learn to handle these with care.

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

The childminder is calm and positive in her approach to managing children's behaviour. She offers gentle reminders to encourage them to share and take turns and use their manners. This consistency helps children learn to behave well. The childminder helps children to develop a good understanding of healthy lifestyles. Children enjoy direct access into the garden. The childminder provides a range of opportunities for children to take safe risks and experience physical challenge. Safety in the home and on outings is given high priority. Children learn how to keep themselves safe as the childminder reminds them about road awareness and stranger/danger. Children often attend groups, which help develop the social skills needed to mix with others. This prepares them well for the next stage in their learning. The childminder promotes self-esteem and confidence through consistent praise and reinforcement of their children's achievements.

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

The childminder has a very good understanding of her responsibilities in meeting the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. She effectively monitors her planning and teaching by regularly assessing children's learning. As a result, she effectively identifies and works to close any gaps in children's learning. The childminder regularly completes training, ensuring that her knowledge is kept up to date. Positive relationships with parents are in place. They comment that they are very happy with the flexible service the childminder offers. However, the childminder does not make the most of her evaluations to reflect closely on improving her practice. This means plans to improve, including seeking further training, and embedding training are not yet sharply focused on raising the teaching standard to outstanding.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY265525
Local authority	Staffordshire
Inspection number	860647
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	6
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	30 November 2009
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 2003 and lives in Stafford. She operates all year round from 7.30am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, excluding family holidays and bank holidays. The childminder holds an appropriate early years qualification at level 3.

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