

Childminder Report

Inspection date

3 June 2015

Previous inspection date

5 May 2010

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 is exceptionally skilled and sensitive in supporting children to form secure emotional attachments. This provides a strong foundation to enable them to develop their independence and motivates them to explore. This supports their well-being and promotes smooth transitions from home into the childminder's care.
- The childminder has an excellent knowledge of how children learn and provides a rich, varied and imaginative educational programme, with precise assessment and planning for individual children. As a result, children make rapid progress in their learning and development in relation to their starting points.
- Children are exceptionally motivated, very eager to join in and consistently demonstrate the characteristics of effective learning in this well-resourced, exciting and nurturing environment.
- Every child is well prepared for the next stage in their learning, including starting school. The childminder is fully committed to working in partnership with parents, carers and local schools. She exchanges detailed amounts of information and inspires parents to become actively involved in their children's learning and development.
- The childminder and her co-childminder are enthusiastic about providing children with the best possible experience. Their very positive working relationship enhances the effective management of the setting. Therefore, children thrive in this enabling environment.
- The highest priority is given to protecting and safeguarding the welfare of children. This is evident through extremely effective practices that successfully promote children's safety and well-being.

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 early reading opportunities for children, for example, by extending the access to books outdoors.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities and the quality of teaching.
- The inspector looked at activity planning, records of children's learning and a selection of policies and records.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the childminder.
- The inspector held joint discussions with the childminder in relation to observations of children's play, learning and progress.
- The inspector discussed self-evaluation with the childminder.
- The inspector looked at evidence of the suitability of household members. She viewed a range of other documentation, including the childminder's first-aid and safeguarding certificates.

Inspector

Tina Mason

Inspection findings

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

Children enjoy a wealth of quality activities and experiences, which supports them to be highly motivated learners. They participate in challenging activities designed to capture their imagination and interests. Children have a wonderful time as they use their imagination and act out make-believe play on the large pirate ship in the garden. They explore and investigate soil and water in the outdoor mud kitchen. The water wall, encourages children to experiment with the flow and movement of water, promoting their problem-solving skills. The childminder holds rich, purposeful conversations with the children, using challenging, open-ended questions that help them to think critically. Communication and language development is supported exceptionally well. Children have lots of opportunities to read books, and stories are brought to life through the use of puppets and home-made story sacks. This promotes their listening skills, while also encouraging their language development. There are opportunities to enhance this even further by providing children with interesting spaces to sit and read books outside.

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

The childminder's home is very safe and welcoming. She provides an excellent range of good quality, stimulating resources, which are independently accessible to all children. Behaviour is excellent. The childminder, and those who work with her, provide consistent, clear messages about such things as sharing, taking turns and saying 'please' and 'thank you'. The childminder consistently offers praise and encouragement, which promotes children's self-esteem and confidence. The childminder promotes healthy lifestyles very well. She ensures that children benefit from regular opportunities to get out in the fresh air and enjoy physical exercise, which enhances their overall sense of well-being. The childminder provides an excellent range of healthy snacks and nutritious, home-cooked meals. Prior to children starting, she gathers pertinent information about children's dietary requirements and adheres strictly to these.

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

The childminder knows and fully understands how to keep children safe. She meticulously implements highly comprehensive risk assessments and daily checks to ensure children are safe at all times. The childminder effectively reviews the delivery of the educational programmes within her setting and has clear procedures in place to observe, assess and check children's progress. This means that children's development is tracked effectively to ensure that they are making excellent progress. The childminder and co-childminder ensure that their practice is fully inclusive to support the needs of children who attend the setting. The childminder's and co-minder's individual personalities and skills complement each other. This means that children gain an exceptional experience within the setting. The childminder's strong commitment to improve through training, and her high-quality teaching skills, impact strongly on the quality learning experiences provided to children.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY265657
Local authority	Southend on Sea
Inspection number	860650
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	6
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	5 May 2010
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 2003. The childminder operates all year round from 7am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays agreed in advance. The childminder provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. The childminder works alongside a co-childminder at her home address.

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Piccadilly Gate
Store St
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 4234
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