

Inspection date	4 February 2015
Previous inspection date	24 November 2011

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 and her assistant have warm relationships with children, so children settle well and are happy in their care. Children benefit from good support and close supervision, so they feel safe and secure.
- The childminder provides a safe environment for children to play and learn. She has age-appropriate toys and activities to interest children and promote their development.
- Children respond well to the childminder's positive approach in managing behaviour, meaning they are polite and cooperative.
- The childminder has good relationships with parents and they provide very positive feedback about her care. They appreciate the range of activities and are pleased with their children's developmental progress.
- The childminder and her assistant attend various childcare and early education courses and keep up to date with relevant guidance. This enables the childminder to review their practice and make ongoing improvements to benefit the children.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The childminder does not widely use pictures and labels to extend children's developing literacy skills, or as a visual prompt to help younger children understand what toys and resources are available.
- Links with other providers involved with the children are not fully effective to ensure continuity in children's care, learning and development.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- develop a wider use of pictures, signs and labels to increase children's literacy development and to help younger children make informed choices in their play
- improve the links with other settings that children attend, to share more information and enhance the support in children's care and development.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children in their play activities.
- The inspector held discussions with the childminder and her assistant.
- The inspector read feedback from parents and a sample of children's development records.
- The inspector checked safety arrangements.

Inspector

Julie Wright

Inspection findings

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

The childminder plans and provides a good variety of activities and outings for children. She rotates her toys and equipment to promote children's interest. However, she does not use visual aids, such as pictures to help younger children make informed choices about what they play with, or to involve all children in planning for future activities. Children enjoy their play and readily join in with activities. For example, they keenly sit at the table and paint pictures. The childminder talks to them about the different colours they use to help them learn. She encourages children to choose a book and listen to a story. The assistant supports the youngest children, which prevents distractions for older ones, so they concentrate well. This means all children benefit from books and story times and develop good listening skills. Clear procedures are in place to record and share information with parents about children's progress. The childminder has contact with other settings that children attend. However, communication with key staff is not specific to children's development.

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

The childminder follows good hygiene practices to promote and protect children's health. Children understand the daily routines and develop independence skills. For example, they find their coats and put on their hats as they prepare to go out. The childminder speaks nicely to children and gently reminds them about how to behave. Children benefit from trips to the park and other areas of interest. They learn about the natural world and develop physical competence. The childminder reminds children about where they have been and what they saw, to reinforce learning. For instance, children say 'oink oink' as they remember seeing the pigs. These activities and practices prepare children well for the next stage of their learning, helping them develop emotional security and physical well-being.

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

Since the last inspection, the childminder has continued to develop her knowledge and skills. She makes positive use of her and her assistant's learning following training courses to make improvements. For example, she has increased reading opportunities to develop children's love of books and attends story times at the local library with them. She shares information with parents about healthy food ideas and portions to reinforce the messages children receive about a healthy lifestyle. The childminder supervises her assistant well. He is clear about her policies and procedures and the children's individual needs. He attends training with her to promote a consistent approach. The childminder reflects on children's progress and seeks parents' views to help evaluate her effectiveness. The childminder takes effective steps to keep children safe from harm. She has a secure knowledge of the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures to protect children's welfare.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY272466
Local authority	Cornwall
Inspection number	847169
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	8
Number of children on roll	5
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	24 November 2011
Telephone number	

The childminder registered in 2003. She lives with her partner, who is also her assistant, and two adult children in Bodmin, Cornwall. The family has a cat. The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register.

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