

Inspection date	26 February 2015
Previous inspection date	21 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

- Children are emotionally secure and their self-esteem is very good. They develop strong bonds with the childminder, and good relationships with each other.
- Children make good progress in their learning, relative to their starting points. This is because the childminder plans very well to make sure activities focus on individual learning objectives. The childminder's good observations and ongoing assessments help her to make sure children are ready to move on to the next stage in learning.
- The childminder promotes children's language and communication development well. She uses her skills very effectively to challenge children and encourage them to express themselves. The childminder's very good use of open questions such as 'What do you think??' encourages children to use their imaginations and talk about their ideas.
- The childminder monitors her practice well and shows commitment to ongoing professional development. She evaluates the effectiveness of training in terms of the impact on children's learning. She supports her assistant's development appropriately.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The childminder carries out the required progress check when children are two years old, and provides parents with a written report. However, these are basic and provide little detail about children's achievements in relation to communication and language, physical development, and personal social and emotional development.
- Parents are not consistently involved in their children's learning. Although some parents share information about their children's learning and development at home on a regular basis, others do not.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- improve the required progress reports for children aged between two and three to provide a comprehensive overview of their achievements to date
- improve strategies to encourage parents to be more involved in their children's learning.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children and the childminder engaged in activities.
- The inspector talked to the childminder and children, and read feedback from parents.
- The inspector sampled documentation such as safeguarding procedures and children's learning and development records.

Inspector

Julie Neal

Inspection findings

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

Children enjoy a good balance of free exploratory play and planned, adult-led activities. The childminder uses simple themes such as favourite stories to link activities that promote learning in all areas. For example, children talked about the unusual fruits in a story. They looked at labelled pictures of these and identified some of the letters and letter sounds. The childminder provided children with these fruits, which they carefully peeled, chopped and enjoyed tasting. She provided small baskets so the children could re-enact the story. Good discussions with children encouraged them to identify differences between the story and their own experiences. The childminder plans well to make sure group activities are inclusive to older and younger children, focusing on each child's stage of development. For instance, when older children practise their writing, very young children thoroughly enjoy using different-coloured markers to make their own patterns alongside their friends.

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

Children are happy and confident. They show a strong sense of belonging. The childminder promotes this by displaying photographs of children engaged in activities, which they enjoy talking about. The childminder has a good understanding of individual children's needs. She uses this knowledge very well to make sure all children feel valued and to develop their understanding of appropriate behaviour. For example, the childminder praised children for being enthusiastic participants in activities and discussions. However, she did not allow more assertive children to dominate, and they responded well to occasional reminders that their friends must have a turn, too. Children enjoy healthy physical activity indoors and outside, and make use of the childminder's well-equipped garden most days. They also enjoy daily walks and visits to parks. Children show awareness of safety and are learning to make their own risk assessments. For example, children talked about whether it was safe for two of them to ride the same bike, and decided it was not.

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

The childminder has a good understanding of the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. She implements these well to safeguard children and promote their welfare. She has good relationships with parents, and involves them in helping to establish children's starting points when settling in. However, parents' ongoing involvement in their children's learning is inconsistent. The childminder makes every effort to develop professional relationships with other providers, where children attend more than one setting. Where this is successful, children benefit from a well-planned partnership approach to promoting individual learning objectives that support their good progress.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY292495
Local authority	Somerset
Inspection number	833833
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	11
Number of children on roll	9
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	21 November 2011
Telephone number	

The childminder registered in 2004. She lives in Langport, Somerset. Her home includes an enclosed garden suitable for outdoor play. The childminder cares for older children before and after school. She employs a childminding assistant on a part-time basis.

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