

Childminder Report

Inspection date

7 May 2015

Previous inspection date

27 July 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 understands how important it is for children to gradually settle into her home and develop new routines. She works effectively with parents to gain vital information about children's likes, dislikes and care needs, which results in children quickly feeling at home and confident in her care.
- Through play, children learn to be inquisitive, count, practise early writing and use tools, such as scissors, successfully. In this way, the childminder helps children to gain the skills and knowledge required for their eventual move to school.
- The childminder makes good use of local facilities and groups. Children especially enjoy trips to the library and local adventure playground, where they develop confidence in meeting new friends and coping with changes in their lives.
- Safeguarding procedures are good. The childminder is well trained and as a result, is able to identify and report concerns about children in her care.
- The childminder uses self-evaluation to consider her strengths and areas of her work that need further development. Parents and children share their ideas in questionnaires, emails and by discussion, and this too helps to promote continuous improvements to her provision.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The abundant resources and toys are not always presented or organised for children's ease of use, or to maximise their independence.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- review the organisation and presentation of resources and toys, and consider making changes to maximise children's independence skills, learning and enjoyment.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the childminder's home.
- The inspector spoke with the childminder at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector and childminder took part in a joint observation.
- The inspector read emails and letters from parents, and took account of their views.
- The inspector looked at children's learning journals, planning documentation, evidence of background checks and a range of other documentation.

Inspector

Jacqueline Baker

Inspection findings

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

The childminder has a good knowledge of individual babies' and children's needs, and devotes her day to playing and promoting their development successfully. She observes babies and children carefully, and tracks their development to ensure they are making good progress from their starting points. Parents are well informed of children's activities through discussions and comprehensive daily diary sheets. This enables them to continue activities at home and promote learning even further. Babies are content, alert and keen to take notice of everything that is going on around them. The childminder provides a wide range of toys to interest them and is able to enhance their sensory development especially well by making simple, yet creative, additions to their surroundings. For example, the childminder places shiny, crinkly paper under babies' feet as they lay on the floor. Babies delight at the noise this makes and this encourages them to kick and develop muscles soon needed to learn to walk. Older children benefit from well-planned activities to promote their development across the seven areas of learning and, as a result, they too are making good progress.

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

Babies' and children's health is well supported because the childminder provides nutritious snacks and has good hygiene procedures in place when preparing foods and infant formulas. Children and babies are welcomed into a warm and homely environment, where they have an abundance of resources and play opportunities available to them, both inside and out. However, occasionally, the way resources are stored and presented, means it is difficult for children to clearly see what is available and to select playthings independently. Nevertheless, children clearly enjoy exploring and are able to play happily, both on their own and with others. The childminder is vigilant to children's safety, both in her home and when out and about. Good strategies are in place to help children to learn how to behave appropriately as they play and learn together.

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

The well-qualified childminder has a good understanding of her responsibilities and is dedicated to her role. She values strong partnerships with parents, and their positive comments and appreciation are evident in emails and letters. Equally, the childminder knows the importance of working with other professionals to ensure children's needs are met in a consistent manner. The childminder attends training and makes good use of the internet and the knowledge of other childminding colleagues to ensure she stays up to date with current childcare practices. This has been especially effective in relation to the childminder's training in special educational needs. Effective monitoring of children's progress takes place and therefore, the childminder is able to identify when further support is needed. Consequently, all children make good progress.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY309451
Local authority	Cambridgeshire
Inspection number	861991
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 10
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	7
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	27 July 2009
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 2005 and lives in Wisbech. She operates all year round from 7am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, except bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder holds a childcare qualification at level 3.

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