

Childminder Report

Inspection date

18 June 2015

Previous inspection date

10 June 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		Outstanding	1
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 demonstrates excellent relationships with parents and her outstanding partnerships with them means that they are actively encouraged to remain involved in their children's learning and development.
- The childminder establishes exceptionally warm, caring relationships with the children. As a result, children are extremely happy and settled in this friendly and welcoming environment.
- Children make good progress in their learning and develop the skills needed to be ready for school. The childminder plans and delivers an interesting range of activities that are adapted to ensure children can participate at their own level.
- The childminder observes and assesses children's learning and development, to identify where they are in their learning and what she needs to do next to support their continuing progress.
- The childminder fully understands her responsibilities to protect children's welfare. She talks confidently about the signs and symptoms of abuse and has attended training in child protection. This ensures that she has a robust understanding of the processes to follow if she is concerned about a child.
- The childminder understands the legal requirements and demonstrates a good commitment to continuous improvement. Reflective practice is embedded into her self-evaluation, in order to constantly strive for the best achievements for all children.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The childminder is less focused on keeping distractions to a minimum, such as turning down the volume of background music, so that children are able to concentrate fully on what they are doing.
- Planning for outdoor play does not consistently promote all areas of learning, so that those children who learn best from being outdoors are able to do so.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- focus more closely on keeping distractions to a minimum, such as turning down the volume of background music, so that children are able to concentrate fully on what they are doing
- develop each of the seven areas of learning when planning for outdoor play, to ensure that those who learn best from being outdoors are able to do so.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the lounge and the kitchen.
- The inspector spoke with the childminder at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector looked at activity planning, records of children's learning and a selection of policies and records.
- The inspector checked evidence of the suitability of all household members, qualifications of the childminder and the childminder's self-evaluation form.
- The inspector took account of written testimonials from parents.

Inspector

Jacqueline Mason

Inspection findings

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

The childminder talks to parents, to find out about children's starting points on entry to the setting. She observes and evaluates children's learning, to identify where they are in their learning and what she needs to do next to support their continuing progress. Children develop good physical skills in the garden but other areas of learning are not so well planned for outdoors. The quality of teaching is consistently good. However, background distractions, such as the volume of music, cause children to lose concentration and not engage fully in activities. The childminder responds well to the gestures and babbles of babies. She engages them in 'conversations' and repeats words, so that they hear them pronounced correctly. The childminder responds well to the short concentration span of babies and readily suggests another activity. Children enjoy exploring texture through the varied range of art materials that the childminder provides.

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

Children are exceptionally happy and settled. They are confident and self-assured, readily making choices about their play. Children benefit from a wide range of play materials, to support their learning and development. The childminder finds out about children's individual routines through her discussions with parents. Established routines are continued, effectively promoting continuity of care and a strong sense of belonging. Children demonstrate that they feel extremely safe in the childminder's care. Written testimonials from older children identify their love of the childminder. They say, if they are 'worried or sad, Tara is there to help me'. Children add that they 'absolutely, utterly love going to Tara's house' and think she is an 'amazing role model for little children'. The childminder supports children exceptionally well to understand and manage their behaviour. Good behaviour and individual efforts are highly valued. As a result, children have a highly positive sense of themselves.

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

The childminder attends necessary training and organises her setting well, to ensure that the legal requirements are met. She monitors the quality of her practice and children's learning experiences. As a result, the childminder provides care and learning experiences that are of a good quality. Children's developmental progress is tracked and shared with parents. Comprehensive daily diaries are maintained for younger children. Written testimonials from parents demonstrate the extremely high regard that they have for the childminder. They value her 'warm', 'friendly' and 'compassionate and caring' nature, and appreciate that she is flexible to meet their changing childcare needs. Parents state that they are extremely grateful for the support the childminder gives them with child-rearing issues and would whole-heartedly recommend her to others. The childminder also has good partnerships with others who provide care and learning for children, ensuring an effective two-way flow of information.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY316544
Local authority	Suffolk
Inspection number	873176
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	16
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	10 June 2009
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 2005. She operates all year round from 8am to 5.30pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. Additional hours are available by negotiation.

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