

Inspection date

23 March 2015

Previous inspection date

23 November 2009

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 quality of teaching is outstanding. The childminder has an excellent understanding of how young children learn. She provides an exceptional range of challenging and highly-stimulating activities and resources, both indoors and outdoors. As a result, children are keen to learn and thoroughly enjoy their time with the childminder.
- Numbers and print, such as the children's names, are used effectively to develop children's skills in mathematics and literacy. Consequently, children develop essential skills and confidence to prepare them for their next stage in learning, such as school.
- The childminder monitors children's learning and meticulously assesses their progress. This ensures that her planning and child-led opportunities are sharply focused to ensure that children make exceptional progress towards the early learning goals.
- The childminder has a robust knowledge and understanding of the safeguarding and welfare requirements. Comprehensive policies and procedures underpin her excellent practices, to ensure the safety and well-being of children in her care.
- Partnerships with parents are superb. Parents particularly delight in the highly informative diaries provided by the childminder. These inform them about their child's daily activities and learning, through photographs and observations. Excellent activity ideas to further support children's next steps are also provided, to extend their learning opportunities at home.
- Children have strong attachments to the childminder and are extremely confident, sociable and self-assured. This is because the childminder provides a safe, secure and homely environment where children's happiness is of utmost priority.
- The childminder is highly professional, ensuring that all aspects of her provision are met to an exemplary standard. She has an excellent understanding of her role in meeting the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. She regularly seeks parents' views and highly values their contributions.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue to develop outdoor play opportunities, through further sensory experiences, such as mud play and the provision of additional recycled open-ended resources, including crates and planks, to further enhance children's problem-solving skills and opportunities to work together.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities and care routines in the playroom and the outside learning environment.
- The inspector observed an activity led by the childminder and discussed with her the quality of her teaching and the quality of the learning opportunities for the children.
- The inspector spoke with the childminder and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector looked at children's assessment records, planning documentation and a selection of policies and procedures.
- The inspector checked evidence of the qualifications of the childminder and the suitability of herself and other household members.
- The inspector discussed the childminder's evaluation of her provision and her improvement plan.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents and carers from written references and from information included in the childminder's own parent survey.

Inspector

Sharon Lea

Inspection findings

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

The childminder continually maximises opportunities to extend children's learning. For example, when children create a pretend shop, she extends this to include money for the customers to buy the items on sale. They discuss how much each item costs and improvise by using blocks as coins. As a result, children's critical thinking skills, imaginative development and mathematical understanding are excellently promoted. When children become interested in magnifying glasses, the childminder demonstrates how the toy insect looks bigger when using these. Outdoors, they use the magnifiers to closely view frog spawn. The childminder explains to children how the frog spawn will change, using pictures of the life cycle of a frog to develop their understanding. During a baking activity, children learn how chocolate changes from solid to liquid when melted and solid again once cool. They use scoops of different sizes to add ingredients and explore how much more they need to add. Consequently, children are highly active and motivated learners. However, there is scope to develop children's problem solving skills further still, through additional outdoor experiences. For example, using recycled materials, such as crates and planks to create imaginative structures together.

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

Children are cared for exceptionally well by the childminder. The childminder is an excellent role model as she is kind and calm. She promotes sharing and taking turns, and encourages children to respect one another and use good manners. As a result, children are exceptionally well behaved and learn how to be sociable with others. Children's independence and self-care skills are promoted superbly. They attend to their own toileting and hygiene needs as soon as they are able and put on their own coats for outdoor play. The childminder teaches children about healthy foods. Children understand why fruit is good for their bodies and why they should not eat too many sweet things. Children have an excellent understanding of how to keep themselves and others safe. For example, during a cooking activity, children learn not to touch the melted chocolate to prevent it from burning them.

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

The childminder has very high expectations of herself and children. She actively seeks new ideas through training, childminding network meetings and independent research, via the internet and reading. As a result, she identifies areas of her practice to enhance further, or new initiatives to develop, such as the provision of forest schools. The impact of new developments upon children is also identified. This ensures that improvements are beneficial and enhance the learning opportunities for children in her care further still. Partnerships with other settings, such as school, are well established to support continuity of learning for children. The childminder welcomes the expertise of other professionals, to support her in meeting the needs of children with special educational needs and/or disabilities.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY319101
Local authority	Stockport
Inspection number	856890
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	9
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	23 November 2009
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 2005 and lives in the Reddish area of Stockport, Cheshire. She operates term time only from 7am to 5.30pm, Monday to Friday. She provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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Piccadilly Gate
Store St
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M1 2WD

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