

Inspection date	11 February 2015
Previous inspection date	25 February 2010

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 bubbly and happy in this welcoming environment and display very good levels of emotional well-being. They approach the childminder confidently, showing that they feel secure in her presence.
- Children thoroughly enjoy listening to the childminder as she animatedly reads stories to them. They join in enthusiastically with refrains, experimenting with different voices and intonations for the various characters. This effectively promotes children's language skills and love of books.
- The childminder builds on the children's interests as they play and intervenes effectively to extend children's learning. For example, when children are talking about colours as they paint, the childminder encourages them to think about and mix colours to get the shade they want.
- The childminder provides nutritious, home-cooked meals and snacks for the children. She also discusses at mealtimes the importance of a healthy diet. This promotes children's health and their understanding of healthy lifestyles.
- The childminder has a secure understanding about safeguarding children and she is aware of the procedures to be followed in the event of a child protection concern being raised. Additionally, she ensures that suitable checks are carried out on all adults within her home. As a result, children are effectively safeguarded.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The childminder does not consistently share information with other early years providers about what children learn while in her care, so that they can share ideas of how to maximise the good progress children make.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen information sharing with other early years providers, and use this shared knowledge and understanding to support children's progress to the very optimum.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the childminder's home and reviewed them with the childminder.
- The inspector spoke to the childminder and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents and children as provided through written questionnaires and feedback.
- The inspector looked at children's records, planning documentation, and a range of other documentation, including policies and procedures.

Inspector

Anne Bell

Inspection findings

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

The childminder demonstrates a good understanding of how young children learn. She provides varied, stimulating activities that engage children and promote their enthusiasm. For example, children pretend to be shopkeepers in the role play area, take part in water play, draw their own pictures, listen to stories and learn about shape and colour as they take part in printing activities. This good range of enjoyable learning experiences prepares children well for the next stage of their learning, and means that they make rapid progress towards the early learning goals. The childminder carries out regular observations of children's achievements and keeps detailed records of their development. This means that she knows children's stages of development extremely well, and plans accurately for their next steps in learning. She shares this information with parents and encourages them to contribute their own observations of children's learning at home. However, the childminder does not consistently share this information with other early years providers, so that children's progress can be consistently maximised.

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

The childminder has high expectations for children's behaviour. Children are encouraged to share and take turns with the toys and resources, and to be kind and considerate towards one another. Consequently, children's behaviour is good. The childminder maintains a daily diary for each child. This is a record of what the children have been doing each day and is shared with the parents when they collect their children. The childminder is attentive to all aspects of their care. The environment is safe and well-maintained and the resources are suitable for the children's ages. Children's independence is promoted, as they use safety knives to chop their own fruit at snack time. They learn about the importance of good hygiene practices as they wash their hands before snack and after using the toilet.

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

The childminder has good self-evaluation procedures in place. She completes a self-evaluation form and also takes advice from her local authority adviser. She invites parents to give regular feedback through a questionnaire. She also seeks and welcomes children's views as part of her self-evaluation, through the use of an age-appropriate feedback form. The childminder establishes effective partnerships with parents. Parents are highly complimentary about the stimulating environment and quality of care that is provided for their children. The childminder takes children to the local library and to group activities so that they can socialise with other children. This promotes children's confidence and social development. The childminder attends networking groups where examples of good policy and practice are shared. This ensures that she remains up-to-date with new information and procedures.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY331272
Local authority	Central Bedfordshire
Inspection number	873262
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	5
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	25 February 2010
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 2006, and lives in Shillington, near Hitchin. She operates all year round, from 7am to 5.30pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays.

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of provision that is registered on the Early Years Register. The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and care, known as the Early Years Foundation Stage.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the guidance 'Complaints procedure: raising concerns and making complaints about Ofsted', which is available from Ofsted's website: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted. If you would like Ofsted to send you a copy of the guidance, please telephone 0300 123 4234, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, work-based learning and skills training, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for looked after children, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 4234, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may copy all or parts of this document for non-commercial educational purposes, as long as you give details of the source and date of publication and do not alter the information in any way.

To receive regular email alerts about new publications, including survey reports and school inspection reports, please visit our website and go to 'Subscribe'.

Piccadilly Gate
Store St
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 4234
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted

© Crown copyright 2015

