

Inspection date	9 April 2015
Previous inspection date	20 October 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

- Children's communication and language skills are promoted well because the childminder spends time positively interacting with them and encouraging effective development of their vocabulary and language.
- Children follow good hygiene routines. They enjoy healthy snacks, fresh air and exercise, which promote their good health.
- Children form secure attachments with the childminder from the start. A gradual introduction to her home and a good range of information gathered from parents helps children to settle quickly and enjoy their time with the childminder.
- The childminder has a good understanding of her safeguarding responsibilities and the routes of referral for child protection. She understands what documentation and records she must keep. The childminder recognises the importance of evaluating her provision and seeking to improve it.
- Partnerships with parents and other professionals involved with individual children ensure children receive the support they need. Parents are kept well informed of their children's progress.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- There are fewer opportunities for children to see and use the printed word, letters and numbers, for a purpose, as part of the everyday routine.
- Some planned activities focus too much on the end product, which means children do not always have enough time to use their imagination and explore a wide range of materials fully.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- provide more opportunities for children to explore their creativity freely, using a wide range of resources
- improve the use of written words, letters and numbers for a purpose, both indoors and outside.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the childminder and her interactions with children as they played.
- The inspector spoke to the childminder and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the childminder.
- The inspector sampled relevant documentation, including children's records, policies, procedures, the childminder's qualifications and evidence of the suitability of all adults living on the premises, as well as her self-evaluation documents.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents, spoken to on the day, and in their written feedback to the childminder.

Inspector

Cathryn Clarricoates

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 and understanding of how children learn and develop. Consequently, she provides children with a broad range of interesting experiences, focused around their individual interests and needs. The childminder supports children's communication and language well through effective teaching. For example, younger children learn new words, as they plant seeds to grow their own herb garden. However, there are fewer opportunities for children to see, and use spontaneously, meaningful words, letters and numbers around them. The childminder makes good use of information gathered from parents to establish a strong starting point for each child's next steps in learning. She has an effective system to keep parents informed about their children's progress and how they can support their learning at home.

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

Children settle quickly into the childminder's care. She offers home visits and flexible settling-in sessions, to ensure children are happy and their emotional needs are met. Children enjoy the wide range of resources available and independently explore their environment. However, opportunities for children to extend their imaginative and creative skills during craft activities are not maximised. This is because the childminder does not always provide children with the opportunity to explore a wide range of materials, including natural resources, that they can access freely and use to follow their own ideas. Children have frequent opportunities to be physically active and enjoy the fresh air, for example, when they play outside with sand, water, bats and balls and scooters. They have easy access to drinking water and enjoy snacks of fresh fruit. As a result, they are beginning to understand how to follow a healthy lifestyle. Children take part in regular outings, such as visits to the beach, park and toddler groups. This helps children to develop their confidence and prepares them for their move to pre-school or school.

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

The childminder has a robust range of policies and procedures, including safeguarding, which she implements to provide a safe and secure environment. Risk assessments are completed and these cover all aspects of the childminder's home and outings. The childminder is committed to further professional development. She evaluates her practice and takes into account the views of children and parents. The well-qualified childminder uses observations of children to make accurate assessments, which inform her planning to meet their needs and interests. She meets with health visitors and parents to complete the progress check for children aged between two and three years. As a result, the childminder ensures that children are developing the necessary skills for the next stage of their learning. She builds good relationships with parents, health visitors, nursery and school staff. Consequently, information sharing about children's learning needs is very effective and supports their good progress. Parents speak very positively about the quality of care and education which their children receive.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY331492
Local authority	Newcastle
Inspection number	873263
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	6
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	20 October 2009
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 2006 and lives in Walkergate, Newcastle. She operates all year round from 8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder provides funded early years education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. She has a relevant qualification at level 3.

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