

Inspection date	30 March 2015
Previous inspection date	11 March 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

- The quality of teaching is good. The childminder provides a range of good-quality learning experiences for children. As a result, children are motivated, eager to explore and develop a thirst for learning.
- Children's language and communication skills are given high priority. The childminder encourages children in conversation, helping them to develop their vocabulary and become skilful communicators.
- Children are extremely happy and settled in this warm and welcoming setting. They form exceptionally secure emotional attachments with the childminder.
- The childminder promotes children's welfare very well, ensuring they are safeguarded at all times. She completes regular risk assessments and daily checks of her home. She also provides regular opportunities for children to engage in emergency evacuation drills. Consequently, children develop a good understanding of how to stay safe.
- The childminder has high expectations of her practice. She is passionate about providing the best possible care and learning opportunities for the children. The childminder has completed all mandatory training and many additional courses. She effectively reflects on and evaluates her service. This means that children gain rich experiences within the setting.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The childminder does not yet obtain more precise information from parents about children's learning and development abilities when they first start.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen the arrangements for obtaining even more information from new parents about what children know and can do to enhance understanding about children's precise starting points in each area of learning.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities and the quality of teaching.
- The inspector looked at activity planning, records of children's learning and a selection of policies and records.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the childminder.
- The inspector held joint discussions with the childminder in relation to observations of the children's play, learning and progress.
- The inspector discussed self-evaluation with the childminder.
- The inspector looked at evidence of the suitability of household members. She viewed a range of other documentation including the childminder's first-aid and safeguarding certificates.

Inspector

Tina Mason

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 clear understanding of how children learn. Children are eager to learn and they develop skills needed for the next stage in their learning. They use their imaginations well as they act out everyday situations through role-play activities in the mud kitchen situated in the garden. The childminder supports them as they begin to learn about making marks in corn flour, which develops an understanding of early literacy. Resources available for the younger children foster their explorative nature through sensory exploration and mess making. They use natural materials and media, such as sand, water, gloop and dough. The childminder works in close partnership with parents and implements an effective shared approach to meet children's individual learning needs. General information about children's care is obtained from their parents when they first start, to establish an understanding about their individual needs. However, this information does not always include precise details about children's specific learning and developmental milestones, to enhance the planning.

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

The childminder is a good role model and plays alongside children, helping them understand how to share and take turns. This helps children to form strong attachments with peers and understand what behaviour is acceptable. Outdoor play is encouraged and children move freely between indoor and outdoor spaces. Resources in the outdoor area include a good range of climbing apparatus, ride-on toys and ramps that are suitable for challenging children physically at their different stages of development. The outdoor area is used with full effect to promote children's awareness of the natural world, by providing children with a wider range of opportunities to develop their investigation skills of natural resources. The childminder is aware of her responsibilities and safe working practices to support children's health, safety and well-being. For example, she reminds children how to play safely on wheeled toys, such as scooters.

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

The childminder has a good understanding of how to implement the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. She has a secure understanding of her role to protect and safeguard children. A wide range of policies are used effectively to support children's health, safety and well-being. The childminder reviews potential risks in the environment to ensure children are kept safe. Since the last inspection, the childminder has improved her knowledge of how to assess and plan for children's learning needs. Observations are used successfully to plan for children's next steps in learning. This has a positive impact on the progress children make. Partnerships with others involved in the care and learning of the children are extremely effective and ensure their learning and development is continued and built upon expertly. The childminder has a level 3 childcare qualification which is reflected in the good quality care and learning she provides for children.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY349209
Local authority	Thurrock
Inspection number	863272
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	11 March 2010
Telephone number	

The childminder registered in 2007. The childminder operates all year round from 7am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays agreed in advance. The childminder provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. The childminder works alongside a co-childminder at her home address. The childminder holds a level 3 qualification in childcare.

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Piccadilly Gate
Store St
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 4234
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