

Inspection date	24 March 2015
Previous inspection date	6 September 2011

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 childminder teaches children well, and they make good progress as they lead their own play, using a wide range of interesting resources. She plans an exciting range of activities and develops children's language skills well.
- There is a strong partnership with parents, as the childminder guides them in ways to support children's learning at home and keeps them very well informed about children's progress and activities.
- The childminder keeps children safe through her comprehensive knowledge of safeguarding and child protection. She supervises children very well with the support of her assistant and the premises are secure.
- Behaviour is very good and children learn to be independent, to make healthy food choices and are active outdoors each day. The childminder prepares children well for their moves to nursery and school so that they are emotionally secure.
- Children are very happy and secure and their needs are met. This is because the childminder works closely with parents to meet children's care and learning needs and provides a very happy, family environment.
- The childminder monitors and evaluates her provision and children's learning effectively. She shares ideas and best practice with other local early years providers to strengthen this process.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- There are further opportunities to extend learning challenges for babies through the use of activities and resources that are better matched to their age group.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- extend the already exciting learning experiences for babies to provide wider challenges in their learning through exploration, for example, by providing treasure baskets and sensory experiences.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the childminder's home.
- The inspector spoke to the childminder, her assistant and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the childminder.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents, carers and children, including those expressed in recent letters.

Inspector

Catherine Sharkey

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 secure knowledge of the learning and development requirements. She obtains information from parents about what children already know and can do when they start. She uses this information alongside her own observations, to plan an exciting range of activities for children. The childminder plans effectively, with individual children's interests in mind. However, she does not always maximise the youngest children's learning through more specifically focused play to match their age group. Young children enjoy looking at books with the childminder. She talks to them about the pictures and encourages them to repeat words and turn the pages. They concentrate very well and play happily together, as the childminder helps them to choose from a range of percussion instruments, which they shake in time to music. The childminder encourages a very effective, two-way flow of information about children's progress with parents on a daily basis. She provides them with very comprehensive information about her policies and procedures. The childminder reviews children's progress regularly in order to identify and address any gaps in learning. Teaching is good and she prepares children well for the next stage in their learning.

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

Young children form close bonds with the childminder and are content to fall asleep on her lap or in their cots. She comforts them with cuddles and their comfort blankets if they are tired or upset and they soon settle. Children are learning to be independent, as the childminder encourages them to drink and feed themselves. They enjoy pieces of banana at snack time and eat their own lunches provided by parents. The childminder ensures these are healthy. She advises parents about preparing healthy food for children at home. She helps young children to wipe their noses and to communicate their needs so that they are secure and comfortable. Children have regular physical exercise as they use the wide range of equipment at toddler groups, soft-play venues and the local parks each week. The childminder helps children to learn to share as they play and eat together.

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

The childminder monitors her own and her assistant's teaching and planning and individual children's progress well with the support of a local authority adviser. She focuses on areas for improvement and attends a wide range of training courses to shape her professional development and that of her assistant, to increase the good quality of children's learning experiences. She ensures her assistant understands and implements the safeguarding procedures. The views of parents are actively sought and they report very positively on the childminder's provision. The childminder regularly shares ideas and best practice with other childminders and early years providers at the weekly groups she attends with the children. She understands the importance of working with other professionals, should the need arise. The knowledge and skills that the childminder has as a result of her level 3 qualification are reflected well in this good-quality provision.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY357218
Local authority	Birmingham
Inspection number	863500
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	6 September 2011
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 2007. She operates all year round, from 7.30am to 5.30pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder holds a childcare qualification at level 3 and works with an assistant.

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