

Inspection date	27 March 2015
Previous inspection date	9 November 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 settle well and are motivated to learn because the childminder fosters an environment where children are valued, respected and can feel safe.
- The childminder frequently observes children and makes accurate assessments of their development. As a result, children are making good progress.
- The childminder fully recognises her responsibilities to safeguard children and protect them from harm because she is aware of child protection issues and attends a wealth of training.
- The childminder builds strong partnerships with parents and makes good links with outside agencies. Consequently, children's specific needs are fully supported.
- The childminder has a level 3 qualification in childcare and this enables her to monitor and improve her provision to a good quality standard, which benefits the children in her care.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The childminder does not always make the best use of mark-making resources, as they are placed out of reach so young children can not access them at all times.
- The childminder does not always make natural resources available for children to explore in the outdoor area.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance the mark-making areas by moving all resources to child height in order for them to be fully accessible and promote children's creativity and early writing
- make better use of the opportunities available for children to access natural resources to explore with at all times.

Inspection activities

- The inspector carried out a tour of the setting.
- The inspector observed children during activities in the two playrooms and secure garden area.
- The inspector looked at children's records and a range of other documentation, including risk assessments.
- The inspector spoke to the childminder at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector took an account of the views of parents through letters and comments.

Inspector

Rebecca Stead

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 of the learning and development requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. She provides a wealth of stimulating and exciting activities across the seven areas of learning. Children develop small muscle control as they enjoy creating their own biscuits for fundraising. They select from many diverse books, which the childminder reads to them. Her teaching sets realistic challenges for young children, appropriate to their age and stage of development. Therefore, they make good progress. The childminder observes children's preferred styles of learning and uses this information to effectively plan activities. Younger children use early sign language when they cannot verbally communicate because the childminder is fully committed to ensuring children are heard and understood.

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

The childminder is nurturing, positive and fosters an environment where children are valued, respected and can feel safe. The environment is full of stimulating activities. However, some mark-making resources are placed on a high shelf. Consequently, younger children cannot reach them at all times, to extend their creativity and early writing skills. The childminder encourages children to be independent as they are encouraged to wash their hands. This prepares them for their next stage of learning. Children use early sign language to sign 'please' and 'thank-you', developing good manners from an early age. Children have plenty of opportunity to learn how to be healthy and active. They benefit from varied, healthy meals and snacks, and go to the local parks and toddler groups. Children have access to a generally stimulating and well-resourced outdoor area. However, the childminder does not focus more precisely on enhancing the outdoors with freely available natural resources for children to explore, as they are kept in the outdoor shed.

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

The childminder fully understands her responsibilities to safeguard children. She attends frequent safeguarding courses, which enable her to implement effective procedures to follow should she have a concern for a child. The childminder values the voice of the child. She listens to all children and discusses how they can stay safe, should they ever feel vulnerable. For example, when older children use electronic games and phones, she discusses safe use of these. The childminder reflects critically on her provision and shares evaluations with parents, to make timely improvements. Parents are encouraged to contribute to their child's assessments at every opportunity. This is because the childminder offers parents' evenings and daily diaries to share key information. She is developing a new area for children to play, which will give them more space and better opportunities for learning. Whilst this is under construction, risk assessments are in place to ensure the suitability of the premises and the safety of all children in her care.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY360111
Local authority	Lancashire
Inspection number	857595
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	4
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	9 November 2010
Telephone number	

The childminder registered in 2007. She lives in Lytham, St. Annes, Lancashire. The childminder operates from 7am to 7pm, Monday to Friday, and provides occasional weekend care and flexible hours. The childminder holds a relevant level 3 childcare qualification.

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