

Childminder Report

Inspection date

29 April 2015

Previous inspection date

28 April 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 childminder has built close relationships with children and knows them well. This has a positive impact on their emotional well-being and children develop self-confidence.
- The childminder effectively monitors children's progress and quickly identifies gaps in their learning. Consequently, interventions to support children are accessed promptly.
- The childminder works well with parents and keeps them updated of children's experiences and progress. These positive parental partnerships promote learning at home.
- Children enjoy healthy food and learn about healthy lifestyles. The childminder promotes good hygiene routines, which children follow well.
- The childminder reflects on the service she provides, evaluating her strengths and identifying areas to develop her practice. She provides a dependable childcare service for parents and is flexible in meeting their changing needs.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The childminder does not provide children with a wide range of role-play experiences to build on their imagination.
- Children do not always have opportunities to develop their early writing skills because a variety of writing resources is not always freely available.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- engage children even more in imaginative experiences during their play, so that they can build on what they already know and make sense of the world
- provide more opportunities for children to develop their early writing skills by, for example, providing a wider range of writing resources for them to access when they are choosing their own activities.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the childminder's home.
- The inspector spoke to the childminder at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector evaluated a planned activity with the childminder.
- The inspector read comments from parents in letters.
- The inspector looked at a selection of policies and procedures.
- The inspector viewed a selection of documents, including children's progress files and discussed these with the childminder.

Inspector

Michelle Britch

Inspection findings

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

Children engage well with the childminder during both adult led and free play. They experience a welcoming play environment, which supports their interests and current learning themes. However, there are limited role-play items to stir children's imagination and build on their own ideas and experiences during play. They make good progress because the childminder uses effective teaching strategies. She uses interactive stories to help build on their knowledge and understanding of a butterfly life cycle. Time is given to children to explore the sequence independently and she gives them sufficient time to reply to questions about their own learning. Children are creative learners. They are excited to create their own caterpillar using glue and red circles. They skilfully use their fingertips to glue them into position. Children are supported to develop their writing abilities during the adult-led activities. However, the creative resources are not always readily available to the children to use in their own way during play. This does not allow them to challenge themselves and build on these skills in their own time.

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

The childminder is warm, friendly and kind. She praises and reassures children, which develops their self-confidence. The childminder prioritises children's safety. She has safety gates and reminds children how to climb safely onto the chairs. Children enjoy looking at photographs displayed on the wall and jump with delight when they remember experiences in the snow shared with the childminder and their peers. She encourages them to be active learners and persevere with challenges when they face difficulties. For example, the childminder prepares to unpeel the labels off stickers before allowing children to complete the task themselves. This helps children to develop a good approach to learning, which prepares them well for school. The childminder shares a daily diary with parents to explain how each individual child's care needs have been managed and well met throughout the day. Therefore, children settle well and are happy to be within the childminder's home.

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

The childminder is secure in her understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage requirements. All documentation is in place and she implements effective policies and procedures to keep children safe. The childminder has an early years qualification and invests time in professional development. This strengthens her practice and the education she provides to the children. The childminder's capacity to improve is good. She has addressed all areas to improve from the last inspection. She sourced necessary training and now has an effective system in place to observe children and monitor their progress. This enables her to identify any gaps in children's learning and engage with parents and external agencies to provide targeted support. Parents' testimonials speak highly of the childminder, particularly the level of care she provides. This demonstrates the efforts the childminder makes to ensure that families feel welcomed and cared for.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY401009
Local authority	Lancashire
Inspection number	860205
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	3
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	28 April 2010
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 2009 and lives in Rawtenstall. She operates all year round from 8am to 5.30pm, Monday to Friday, except bank holidays and family holidays.

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