

Childminder Report

Inspection date

20 July 2015

Previous inspection date

17 January 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's home is warm and welcoming. The childminder and her assistant have a very good knowledge of children's individual needs and interests. As a result, children develop positive relationships and are emotionally secure.
- The childminder uses detailed observation and assessment to identify children's next steps in learning and to plan a broad range of interesting and challenging activities. All children make good progress.
- Children are cooperative and well behaved. The childminder and her assistant are good role models and provide children with clear messages about what is expected.
- Partnership working with other settings that children attend is very strong. As a result, information is shared regularly, which supports continuity in children's care and learning.
- The childminder and her assistant demonstrate a thorough knowledge of child protection procedures and the action to be taken should they have any safeguarding concerns.
- The childminder is committed to improving her provision. She includes the views of parents, children and her assistant when reviewing her practice. Self-evaluation procedures are used effectively to identify areas for improvement.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The childminder does not always obtain detailed information from parents about children's early achievements and their learning at home when children first start at the setting.
- Children have limited opportunities to investigate and explore natural materials and resources in everyday play activities.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- gather detailed information from all parents about children's early achievements and their learning at home when they first start
- increase opportunities for children to investigate and explore natural materials and resources in everyday play activities.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the childminder and her assistant engaged in a range of activities and care routines with children.
- 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 looked at documentation, including children's records, risk assessments, certificates, policies and procedures.
- The inspector checked evidence of the suitability and qualifications of the childminder and her assistant.
- The inspector took account of the information provided in the childminder's self-evaluation document, and from written comments from parents.

Inspector

Susan Hopper

Inspection findings

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

The quality of teaching is good. The childminder and her assistant engage enthusiastically with children during play and routine activities. They praise children's efforts and encourage them to talk about what they are doing and what they can see. For example, children are helped to recognise and name the colour and shape of sea creatures in the sand tray. Children add glitter to water and talk confidently to the childminder about what happens. Children enjoy craft activities with glue and different textures. There is a good selection of toys for children to play with. However, the range of resources does not always routinely include natural materials and resources to support children with exploring and developing their sensory awareness and understanding of nature. The childminder shares information with parents on a regular basis, such as daily diaries, learning journals and progress summaries. However, parents are not asked to provide information about children's early achievements and their learning at home when they first start at the setting. This means that the childminder does not always have the information she needs to accurately identify children's stage of development or interests when they first start with her.

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

Children's well-being is well promoted and they are very happy and settled in this caring environment. Children are confident, independent learners. They are happy to explore the indoor and outside play areas, and choose activities of interest. The childminder promotes children's self-help skills well. Children enjoy small responsibilities, such as helping to prepare meals and setting the table. Good routines and hygiene practices ensure that children are kept safe and healthy. The childminder regularly updates risk assessments for the home and outings to identify and minimise hazards. Children have regular opportunities to play outdoors in the fresh air and to develop their physical skills at the local park and play centres. The childminder ensures that children are well prepared for nursery or school and develops their social skills by taking them to group activities.

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

The childminder is well qualified and very experienced. She has a very good understanding of the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. The childminder uses her knowledge and experience effectively to ensure that children in her care benefit from high-quality provision. She reviews the practice of her assistant through regular observations and supervisions. They work well together, contributing different strengths and experiences to the provision. The childminder identifies further training needs for herself and her assistant, and acts on this information to make improvements. She ensures that all safeguarding and first-aid training are up to date. The childminder regularly reviews the progress of all children to ensure that any gaps in learning are quickly addressed. She is keen to improve her practice and has addressed the recommendations from her previous inspection.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY411573
Local authority	Warrington
Inspection number	851199
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	12
Number of children on roll	14
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	17 January 2011
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 2002 and re-registered again in 2010. She works with an assistant at her house in Grappenhall, Cheshire. The childminder operates all year round, from 7.30am to 5.30pm, Monday to Thursday, and 7.30am to 3pm on Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. She holds an appropriate early years qualification at level 3.

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