

Inspection date	27 January 2015
Previous inspection date	7 February 2012

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Satisfactory	3
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 provides a varied range of interesting play experiences that ignite children's curiosity. Children make choices as they decide what they want to play with. Resources and activities are easily accessible and children confidently explore their surroundings to initiate their own learning.
- The childminder develops secure attachments with all children, helping them to feel safe and valued. They demonstrate that they are happy in her care as they easily approach her for support and enjoy her relaxed manner.
- The childminder has a good knowledge and understanding of safeguarding policies and procedures, and is aware of her responsibilities in this respect. Children play in a secure, safe environment where the childminder completes daily safety checks and regularly reviews risk assessments to promote their welfare.
- Partnerships with parents are good. The childminder communicates regularly with parents so that they are fully aware of their children's care and she actively seeks to involve them in their children's learning. This shared approach supports children's needs well.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Partnerships with other settings are not fully extended to share, more extensively, children's learning to ensure they make the best possible progress.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- extend the arrangements for sharing information with other settings about children's learning and development to ensure that they receive a consistent approach to their learning.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the childminder's house and talked with the childminder.
- The inspector viewed the areas of the premises and garden used for childminding.
- The inspector looked at children's assessment records, planning documentation, evidence of suitability of household members, and a range of other documentation, including the safeguarding procedures.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents, as recorded in written questionnaires and reference letters.
- The inspector reviewed a hardcopy of the provider's self-evaluation form.

Inspector

Clair Stockings

Inspection findings

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

Children are developing good communication skills and have their vocabulary well supported and promoted. For example, the childminder engages children in conversation, as they construct a wooden track circuit together and talk about the train set pieces. She talks to them about what they are doing, questioning children effectively and giving time for them to respond. The childminder shows children how to pronounce some words by responding and repeating what they say in the correct way. Encouraged by the attentive childminder, children have opportunities to successfully develop their creative skills as she provides an assortment of craft materials. As a result, children's development is supported well and provides a solid base for future progress and learning experiences as they move on to their next stage in learning. Regular exchanges of information about children's achievements, and parents' positive contributions to children's assessments, ensure children's learning is supported at home.

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

Children are happy and settled in the warm and caring family environment. The childminder is a good role model through being happy, calm and kind towards children. She manages behaviour positively through using praise and encouragement, and is consistent in her approach. As a result, children's behaviour is good. She takes time to give each child individual attention, so that they feel they are special and valued. Consequently, the childminder effectively supports children's emotional readiness for future learning. The childminder promotes children's awareness of personal safety and risks well. This is because she offers timely safety reminders, for example, not to climb on the furniture. These gentle reminders teach children to manage their own safety.

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

The childminder successfully monitors the educational programmes to ensure that children make good progress. She has an effective knowledge and understanding of the learning requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. She demonstrates commitment to further improve the quality of provision and her knowledge by attending appropriate training. Through self-evaluation, she takes into account the views of children and their parents and uses this to reflect on the quality of her provision. This enables her to identify areas for development and plan for changes and improvements. The childminder is aware of the benefits of sharing information with other early years providers in order to provide continuity of learning for children. She exchanges information with the other settings that children attend to share good practice. However, there is scope to enhance these partnerships further in order to provide children with continuity in their learning, to ensure a more consistent approach.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY430728
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	875952
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	7 February 2012
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 2011 and lives in Loughton. She operates all year round from 7am to 6.30pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays.

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