

Inspection date	21 January 2015
Previous inspection date	20 May 2009

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 plans an exciting range of activities and supports children to make good progress in their learning. As a result, children are happy, relaxed and enjoy a wealth of experiences.
- Children are developing good literacy skills as the childminder skilfully introduces letters and sounds into children's play and activities. This prepares children well for starting school.
- The childminder has good relationships with parents as she seeks their views and wishes. Children enjoy positive interactions with the childminder and each other.
- Children have appropriate hygiene and self-care skills. They enjoy good opportunities for exercise. The childminder supports children to eat healthy food and they begin to learn to understand why this is important.
- The childminder is committed to professional development and has completed a formal childcare qualification since her last inspection. As a result children benefit from the childminder's precise assessment and well-targeted activities to meet their learning needs.
- Children are cared for in a safe home and they develop a good understanding of how to keep themselves safe. The childminder has a good knowledge of safeguarding to protect children from harm.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The childminder does not always adapt activities to fully engage babies and younger children during group activities.
- The childminder does not always fully share the children's assessment records and planning ideas with parents to ensure they are fully involved in their child's learning.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- adapt group activities to engage all children and ensure their individual needs are being well catered for at all times
- improve further the working relationships with parents by fully sharing assessment records, 'learning journey' books and ideas for planning so that they can have a greater involvement in their child's learning.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed learning activities in the lounge and kitchen.
- The inspector looked at policies, children's records including their assessment documentation.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the childminder.
- The inspector held discussions with the childminder and children when appropriate.
- The inspector checked evidence of suitability and qualifications of the childminder and the self-evaluation form.
- The inspector took into account the views of parents recorded on the childminder's questionnaires and letters.

Inspector

Diane Hancock

Inspection findings

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

The childminder provides exciting activities to promote children's good progress in all areas of learning. Children enjoy exploring sensory boxes with small figures based on their favourite films to develop their imagination and language skills. The childminder has good teaching skills to encourage children to think about what is happening as they watch inquisitively their painted picture rise in the microwave. However, there are occasions when structured activities are not adapted to fully engage the younger children. The childminder gives each child attention to support their individual learning needs as she sings action rhymes and games while changing a baby's nappy. Books are easily accessible and the children enjoy time sitting with the childminder listening to stories. The childminder uses innovative ways to motivate and promote children's understanding of letters and sounds. For example, children draw letters in 'fairy dust' to develop literacy skills in preparation for starting for school.

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

The childminder is friendly and provides a calm, welcoming environment with good quality toys. Resources are updated to ensure children are stimulated and help them to settle. The childminder has good relationships with the children, this supports their emotional well-being. Children are sociable and feel safe to talk about their interests and ideas. They are well behaved, polite and considerate as they share toys nicely. The childminder enthusiastically praises and encourages children to have a go; as a result, they are confident and proud. To promote healthy eating children make and eat fairy shaped sandwiches. Children are independent, with good personal care skills; this ensures they are well prepared for starting school. The childminder encourages children to think about how to keep safe, such as when they play with the balloons they need to ensure the floor is clear and safe. Music and movement activities and trips to the park promote children's exercise and physical development.

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

The childminder has a secure knowledge of the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage and effectively meets children's care and learning needs. She has updated her knowledge of local safeguarding procedures. The childminder provides a well organised, safe home with appropriate resources, routines and record keeping to meet children's health needs. She works well with parents to ensure consistency of care. Updated and effective policies are shared with parents. The childminder completes precise assessments and 'learning journey' books which she regularly reviews to track and monitor children's progress. She has clear plans to extend their individual learning. However, this detailed information is not always consistently shared with all parents. The childminder is proactive to liaise with other providers. Children thrive as the childminder attends training and effectively self-evaluates her provision to make significant ongoing improvements to her teaching skills.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY381429
Local authority	Herefordshire
Inspection number	996426
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	20 May 2009
Telephone number	

The childminder registered in 2008. She lives in Hereford. She has links with local schools and pre-schools. The provision operates all year round, from 7.30am to 5.30pm, Monday to Friday, except bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder has an appropriate qualification at level 3.

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