

Inspection date	24 February 2015
Previous inspection date	28 February 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

- Children are extremely happy, content, and well behaved. They have warm and affectionate relationships with the childminder, who has a secure understanding of each child's needs and supports these most effectively. Consequently, she promotes children's emotional security and self-esteem very well.
- Children make good progress in learning, relative to their starting points. The childminder uses her observations very well to assess individual progress and to plan for each child's ongoing development.
- Where children also attend other settings, such as pre-schools, the childminder develops good relationships with staff. Frequent liaison results in effective information sharing. This allows learning objectives to be set jointly, and a consistent approach developed in achieving these.
- The childminder evaluates her practice well. She makes good use of training to develop her skills continually and to make ongoing improvements to children's learning experiences. For example, she has developed children's understanding of mathematics by using resources from the natural environment for sequencing and identifying patterns.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The childminder does not encourage all parents to share their observations of what children do at home, to enhance her planning and assessment for all children.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- develop strategies to further encourage parents to share information about their children's learning at home.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the childminder and children engaged in activities.
- The inspector talked to the childminder and children, and read testimonials from parents.
- The inspector assessed the childminder's knowledge of the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage through discussion and sampling documentation.
- The inspector sampled children's learning records to assess their progress.

Inspector

Julie Neal

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 very good understanding of how children learn and develop through play. She demonstrates this through her interactions that encourage children to explore their ideas and express themselves confidently. For example, children enjoyed using role-play resources to make pretend cups of tea. Skilful questioning from the childminder resulted in children explaining that the tea was warm not hot, because it had milk in, so was safe to drink. This shows they are developing an understanding of cause and effect, and of safety issues. The childminder's communication with children of all ages is very good. She supports babies and very young children well, encouraging them to chatter and using repetition to encourage them to use their early language. Children enjoy a good balance of indoor and outdoor play. The childminder's garden is equipped to promote learning in all areas. This supports those children who prefer an outdoor learning environment. Sometimes the garden gets waterlogged and unsuitable for use, so the childminder plans daily outdoor activities, such as digging in the allotment, and frequent visits to the nearby park.

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

The childminder is very encouraging and supportive. When children learn new skills, she praises them for how hard they concentrate as they try to cut out shapes, which stops them becoming frustrated and giving up. Consequently, children learn to persevere and gain great pleasure from their achievements. Children enjoy a good balance of planned adult-led activities as well as opportunities to explore resources freely in their own way. The childminder encourages children's independence. For example, she gives babies a spoon at mealtimes so they learn to feed themselves, and wipes to help clean their hands and face after meals. The childminder focuses well on promoting children's social confidence and self-esteem, their communication skills, and their personal independence. This prepares them well for the next stage in learning, such as going to school.

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

The childminder has a good understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage requirements. As a result, she implements effective procedures to safeguard children, keep them safe and promote their well-being. She monitors the effectiveness of her practice very well. Where she identifies room for improvement, she takes prompt action, for example, to improve record keeping by using a secure electronic system. This allows parents to access their children's learning records whenever they wish. The childminder makes every effort to involve most parents in their children's learning, and encourages them to share their observations of what children do at home.

Setting details

Unique reference number	507126
Local authority	Somerset
Inspection number	846822
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	5
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	28 February 2011
Telephone number	

The childminder registered in 2001. She lives in Long Load, near Langport, Somerset. The childminder provides care for older children before and after school. She receives early education funding for two-year-old children. The childminder holds an early years qualification at level 3. The family has a pet cat, tortoise and ferrets.

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Piccadilly Gate
Store St
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M1 2WD

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