

Childminder Report

Inspection date	26 March 2015
Previous inspection date	26 November 2008

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 happy in the childminder's welcoming, clean and comfortable family home.
- Children benefit from a wide range of outdoor excursions, which help them to learn about their wider community and become self-confident in different situations.
- The childminder implements all requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage well. She carries out regular and concise observations and assessments. These support her in providing planned activities that are sharply focused on individual children. As a result, she is able to identify and monitor any gaps in children's learning and address them promptly.
- Children are safe because the childminder has a good understanding of how to protect them from harm. She has completed training in safeguarding and paediatric first aid and implements robust policies and procedures to protect children's well-being.
- Partnerships with parents are trusting and well established. Parents receive helpful information about their children's progress.
- The childminder evaluates her practice well. She seeks views from other professionals and parents to help her identify key areas to address, such as developing space in the garden for children to dig, plant and explore.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The childminder does not encourage parents to share what their children learn at home. She does not engage with other providers in children's learning. This does not promote a more consistent approach to children's learning experiences.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen partnerships with parents and other childcare providers that children attend, to promote a more consistent approach to children's learning and development.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed interaction between the childminder and children.
- The inspector held discussions with the childminder.
- The inspector looked at policies, procedures and children's records, including observations, assessments and planning for their next steps.
- The inspector took into account parents' views expressed through questionnaires.
- The inspector saw all areas of the childminder's home used for childminding.

Inspector

Margaret Dobbs

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 effective and, as a result, children make good progress. The childminder is aware of children's interests and uses these well to further their learning. For example, babies enjoyed spinning rings on an abacus, so the childminder introduced other shapes to spin to extend their exploration and curiosity. The childminder introduces and repeats new words to babies and shows them new ways to do things. She incorporates counting and rhyme when reading stories. This promotes babies' developing understanding of language and helps them make progress in their overall development. The childminder consistently offers challenge to older children, for example, by introducing scales for weighing and measuring. This promotes children's critical thinking as they begin to work things out for themselves. This is good preparation for school.

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

The childminder has established strong bonds with children, which support their emotional well-being. For example, babies seek her out for reassurance, warmth and attention. The childminder sensitively supports children who learn English as an additional language and helps them to understand what is happening, for example, by using laminated picture cards. Children enjoy fresh air and exercise. The childminder takes them out regularly to a local park where they have picnics and treasure hunts. Children have the opportunity to socialise at weekly meetings with other minded children. The childminder promotes hygienic practices such as washing hands before eating. She reinforced children's understanding of healthy eating through a recent topic. This helps children learn about adopting healthy lifestyles. The childminder prepares children well for school by encouraging independence and self-confidence. The childminder is a good role model. She consistently speaks clearly and calmly, and helps children understand about behaviour by having agreed house rules.

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

The childminder has good policies and procedures, which she reviews regularly. For example, she identifies hazards in the outside environment and minimises the risks through careful assessment and planning. Parents comment that they are reassured their children are in a safe, happy environment. The childminder has a wealth of resources and planned activities, which cover all areas of learning and are appropriate for different age groups and abilities. The childminder shows a commitment to improve her practice through training and regular discussions with other practitioners. For example, she has made story sacks following a workshop, which children benefit from as they use the items to start adding to the story, following their own ideas and imaginations.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY371831
Local authority	Somerset
Inspection number	1001822
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	26 November 2008
Telephone number	

The childminder registered in 2008. She lives with her husband and children in the town of Bridgwater, Somerset. The childminder opens between 8am and 6pm, four days a week, closing on Wednesdays throughout most of the year. The childminder receives early education funding for three and four-year-old children.

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