

Childminder Report

Inspection date	21 July 2015
Previous inspection date	27 January 2010

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		Outstanding	1
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 and settled in the care of the childminder. They have established very close relationships and this helps to support their emotional well-being and confidence.
- The childminder has established strong partnerships with parents. They receive regular feedback about their child's progress and development and are supported to guide children's learning at home.
- The childminder uses accurate assessments to effectively monitor children's progress and to identify any gaps in their learning and development.
- The childminder knows her children very well. She effectively plans activities that help to support their next steps in learning. This enables all children to make good progress in relation to their starting points.
- The childminder shows a commitment to maintaining a quality service and improving her practice. She takes part in professional development opportunities that help to extend her existing knowledge and skills.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The childminder sometimes misses opportunities to extend and challenge children's thinking, by providing answers to their questions.
- The childminder does not provide enough opportunities for children to practise their early writing skills.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- challenge and extend children's thinking skills further
- provide more opportunities for children to make marks and develop their early writing skills independently.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the indoor and outdoor environment.
- The inspector evaluated a planned activity with the childminder.
- The inspector looked at a sample of policies and procedures and the childminder's self-evaluation form.
- The inspector looked at a selection of documents, including children's progress files.
- The inspector held discussions with the childminder and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector checked evidence of the qualifications of the childminder and the suitability of adults living on the premises.
- The inspector took account of parents' comments on the day of the inspection.

Inspector

Nadine McCarthy

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 to promote children's learning and development. She plans a broad range of activities and experiences that support children's developing interests. The quality of teaching is good and the childminder uses a range of strategies that promote children's language and communication skills. She discusses activities with children that they are involved in and encourages them to ask questions. However, the childminder occasionally misses opportunities to extend children's thinking. She provides them with answers to their questions rather than encouraging them to think for themselves. Children are supported to develop their mathematical skills and understanding through counting and exploring patterns and shapes. Children have a wide range of resources that they can access independently. They enjoy making choices about their learning and use picture cards to choose activities they would like to take part in. However, children do not have as many opportunities to develop their writing skills independently.

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

Children form extremely close attachments with the childminder. She responds effectively to their individual needs and routines, and carefully plans activities that support and extend their learning and development. Children are very happy and confident and make requests about things they would like to do. The childminder consistently uses praise and rewards children's achievements. Children respond very well to the routines and show an excellent awareness of hygiene practices. They have access to toys and equipment that help to support their physical development. They also benefit from a wealth of trips and visits to the local park. Highly effective partnerships with parents and local schools help to establish continuity in children's learning. This prepares children well for their future move in to school and for the next stage in their learning.

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

The childminder has a very good understanding of the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. She effectively evaluates her provision to identify any improvements and fully involves parents and children in this process. Children are safeguarded well. The childminder has a clear understanding of the procedures to follow in order to protect children's safety and welfare. She completes detailed risk assessments when taking children out on trips and effectively minimises the risks in her home. The childminder is well qualified and attends regular network meetings and conferences to help keep her knowledge up to date. She works with the local authority to complete audits on her provision and has addressed all recommendations raised at the last inspection.

Setting details

Unique reference number	303362
Local authority	Halton
Inspection number	871718
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	27 January 2010
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 1999 and lives in Widnes. She operates all year round from 8am to 5.30pm Tuesday to Thursday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. She also provides before and after school care. The childminder holds an appropriate early years qualification at level 3.

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