

Childminder Report

Inspection date

9 May 2018

Previous inspection date

22 September 2015

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Outstanding	1
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Outstanding	1
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Outstanding	1

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- The childminder is passionate about her role and has an uncompromising commitment to ensure children make excellent progress from their unique starting points. She monitors children's learning and evaluates the provision extensively to bring about continual improvement.
- The experienced childminder makes incisive observations of children's engagement in activities and accurately assesses their progress. She meticulously uses her very strong knowledge and research to provide children with an extremely inspirational range of experiences, which supports their interests and learning styles highly effectively.
- Children demonstrate high levels of confidence, emotional security and self-esteem. They follow the childminder's and her assistant's exemplary examples to keep themselves safe and healthy. Children behave exceedingly well, are exceptionally well mannered and play harmoniously together.
- The extremely inviting learning environment entices children to explore and make decisions about their play. For example, children show exceptionally high levels of curiosity as they investigate nature and great creativity in their imaginative play.
- The childminder and her assistant provide excellent opportunities for children to develop their communication and language skills. For example, they consistently question older children to encourage their thinking skills and to make connections between their experiences highly effectively.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- gather more precise information about children's developmental starting points to extend the already superb partnerships with parents even further.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the childminder's and her assistant's interactions with children as they played inside and outside.
- The inspector spoke to the childminder and her assistant about their understanding of the early years foundation stage requirements and how they evaluate the provision.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the childminder and discussed how she supports her assistant's professional development.
- The inspector spoke with parents and considered their written views.
- The inspector sampled documentation, including children's assessment records, policies and procedures.

Inspector

Rachael Williams

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

Safeguarding is effective. The childminder and her assistant fully understand and implement their comprehensive policies and procedures to protect children. They have an excellent understanding of their responsibilities to report any concerns about a child to appropriate agencies. The childminder has extremely rigorous systems to ensure the assistant's suitability and offers excellent support to extend his knowledge and skills. The childminder forms highly positive partnerships with parents. She works extremely effectively with them to support their views and wishes, such as encouraging continuity in children's toilet training. The childminder has greatly improved how she shares children's next steps in learning with parents. However, she does not consistently gain as much information as possible about children's developmental starting points to support her initial planning.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

The childminder guides children's play skilfully. For example, noticing young children's interest in the flowerbeds, she provides a tub of soil for them to explore. She provides excellent commentary to children's actions as they use the spade purposefully to transport the soil. The childminder challenges children well. For example, she encourages and shows young children how to use the pedals on a tricycle, offering them praise for their attempts. The assistant uses children's interests exceptionally well to talk to them about potential dangers. For example, when children make him a pretend cup of tea, he extends their play by encouraging them to think about what may happen if it spills, which, in turn, sparks their imaginations even further to include a visit to the hospital.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

The childminder values children highly as individuals within a nurturing environment, which parents greatly appreciate. Children are extremely respectful of others' needs. For example, children know to walk quietly to fetch resources while younger children sleep. Children have excellent opportunities to learn about healthy lifestyles. There are extensive opportunities to be outside and explore nature, for example, to choose and measure materials to build bug hotels and bird boxes. Children grow and pick their own fruit and vegetables to use in their cooking activities, such as to prepare soup.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

Children gain the skills that prepare them exceedingly well for their next steps in learning. Older children are very confident communicators and use language extremely well to explain their thinking and designs, for instance, as they make fairy gardens. Younger children relish the opportunity to sing the 'ABC song' independently and show immense confidence. Older children demonstrate excellent early writing skills, for example, accurately forming letters to complete a medical chart in their imaginative play.

Setting details

Unique reference number	141902
Local authority	Somerset
Inspection number	1127134
Type of provision	Childminder
Day care type	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	1 - 3
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	3
Name of registered person	
Date of previous inspection	22 September 2015
Telephone number	

The childminder registered in 1979. She lives in the village of Cossington near Bridgwater, Somerset. The childminder works with an assistant when required. The childminding service operates Monday to Thursday throughout the year. The childminder receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years old.

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of provision that is registered on the Early Years Register. The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and care, known as the early years foundation stage.

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