

Childminder Report

Inspection date

Previous inspection date

10 May 2016

7 February 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
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 and her assistant promote children's speaking and listening skills very effectively. They create plenty of rich opportunities for children to talk and listen. They provide them with a range of new words that they can use for themselves to describe what they see and hear.
- The childminder provides an excellent and very exciting outdoor environment. The children explore the area freely and enthusiastically participate in learning about the natural world, growing foods and the effects of the weather.
- The childminder makes the most of children's interests when planning experiences. She consistently seeks out learning opportunities that stimulate children's curiosity and their strong impulse to explore and investigate.
- The childminder and her assistant provide an excellent range of interesting and exciting resources that stimulates children's curiosity. Many of the most-innovative resources are home made, designed specifically to meet children's individual learning needs.
- The childminder establishes highly effective relationships with parents. This contributes significantly to the ease and frequency of information sharing. In letters and questionnaires parents express their very high regard for the childminder and her assistant.
- The childminder is working exceptionally well with her assistant. She consistently provides excellent teaching examples that support the assistant to learn how highly effective teaching helps children make rapid progress towards the early learning goals.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- build on the use of data analysis to help target teaching even more precisely and to help identify further developments in practice.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector, childminder and the assistant discussed and reflected on children's learning through play.
- The inspector spoke to the childminder, her assistant and children at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector looked at a range of documentation including policies and evidence of the suitability of the assistant and family members over 16 years living in the household. She also viewed observation and assessment records of children's progress, the safeguarding procedures and the childminder's self-evaluation.
- The inspector looked at letters from parents and took account of their views.

Inspector

Alison Reeves

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

The childminder and her assistant have an excellent understanding of how children learn and develop. The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. They both have a thorough knowledge of safeguarding procedures and know the action to take to protect children. The childminder attends regular training to keep up to date and enhance her skills. She is exploring the opportunities for her assistant to do the same. The childminder has an early years qualification and uses this extremely well to underpin her work with children and to coach her assistant. She sets very high standards, successfully communicating her expectations to others. The childminder and her assistant successfully evaluate the provision for children. They acknowledge the possibility of extending the use of the data they collect, to enhance the precision of teaching to an even higher level.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

The childminder and her assistant plan and deliver a broad range of experiences that captures children's interests immediately. Children get thoroughly engrossed in their imaginative play as they use the toy animals, pretending they have a farm. Children delight in showing their detailed knowledge of the animals and the sounds they make. Children love listening to stories. The childminder and her assistant both read with the children. They make the most of the opportunities to encourage the children to show what they know about the stories. They encourage their full participation in telling the story. The childminder and the assistant support children's learning superbly. They help children to extend their thinking and to explore their ideas. When playing outside children eagerly discover how the water flows through the different connected containers.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Children behave extremely well. The childminder and her assistant are consistent in reinforcing the clear messages about how to behave appropriately. They are calm and reassuring as they explain things to children. The childminder gathers plenty of relevant information about children's health and care needs. She uses this very effectively to plan routines that help children settle in and feel secure. She carefully monitors children's diet and is exceptionally vigilant to ensure no cross-contamination that could have a severe adverse impact on children's health. The childminder works very closely with parents to ensure children's ongoing good health. Children spend quality time outside in the fresh air engaging in active play.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

All children, including those who speak English as an additional language, are making rapid progress in their learning and development. The childminder and her assistant are supporting children exceptionally well to develop their independence and ability to share. Children are acquiring skills and applying their knowledge at a phenomenal rate. They are highly inquisitive, seeking out opportunities to learn more and share what they know with others. Children are effectively prepared for the move to school. The childminder monitors children's progress very closely. She uses her precise observations to assess children's level of attainment and to plan for their next steps in learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	149628
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	854249
Type of provision	Childminder
Day care type	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	1 - 4
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	6
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	7 February 2011
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 1999 and lives in Hitchin. She operates all year round from 7.30am to 5pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder holds an appropriate qualification at level 3 and frequently works with an assistant. She supports children who speak English as an additional language.

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