

Childminder Report

Inspection date

18 February 2016

Previous inspection date

24 February 2011

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

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- Children make good progress in their learning. The childminder is experienced and successfully uses her knowledge and skills to provide good quality childcare. She plans a broad range of activities, following children's individual interests.
- Children have a good range of opportunities to be physically active. They especially enjoy spending time outdoors and going on visits to local woodlands where they have many opportunities to play and explore.
- The childminder works closely with local schools and other settings. They share information about children's learning and development as well as children's well-being. This helps her to meet children's needs well and complement the learning they receive elsewhere.
- The childminder implements a range of effective policies and procedures that she shares with parents so that they are fully informed about her setting and know what to expect.
- The quality of teaching is good. The experienced childminder supports children's communication and language skills through careful planning of activities, taking into account their age and stage of development.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The childminder's planning does not take full account of the learning that takes place at home. Parents are not always encouraged to share this level of information.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- encourage parents to share more details about their children's achievements at home and make better use of this information in order to sharpen planning and build on children's broader learning.

Inspection activities

- The inspector viewed the areas used for childminding. She talked to the children and childminder at appropriate times throughout the inspection and observed a variety of activities.
- The inspector looked at evidence of the suitability and qualifications of the childminder as well as a selection of policies and procedures, including safeguarding. She discussed risk assessments and the childminder's self-evaluation process.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the childminder. She discussed children's learning and development, sampled their records and looked at the planning documentation.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents by reading a number of their comments on questionnaires and letters obtained by the childminder.

Inspector

Susan Sykes

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The childminder is alert to any issues or concerns and implements clear policies and procedures that help her to keep children safe from abuse or neglect. As part of her professional development, the childminder attends training events and undertakes independent research online. Parents indicate that they are very happy with the service provided by this warm and friendly childminder. She reflects on her practice and the impact of this on children's care and learning using her own observations, feedback from children and informal discussions with parents. This means the service she offers continues to improve. Comprehensive policies and procedures underpin the childminder's practice and are shared with parents.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The childminder assesses children's development effectively when they first attend, gathering information from parents and making careful initial observations. She continues to observe children over time and monitors their progress, enabling her to identify and plan for any gaps in their learning quickly. Children enjoy learning as the childminder uses a wide range of ways to engage them. As an example, children are enthusiastic and inquisitive as they create a snow scene using a variety of resources, including blocks of ice and cornflour. Children benefit from the childminder's encouragement and involvement in their play. She guides and extends their speaking skills as she models language and offers younger children time to think and respond. She plans activities that are based on what children can already do and what they are learning next.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

The childminder's home is very welcoming to children and she has a warm and caring approach. Settling-in arrangements are flexible to support children as they move into her home. The childminder obtains detailed information from parents about children's development, routines and interests when they first start attending. This helps her to ensure she meets children's individual needs from the outset. She values the views of children attending. An example of this is the 'wish tree', where children can leave notes on their thoughts and ideas. The childminder encourages children to play alongside other children from different age groups. Older children demonstrate how they help and show care for the younger children. Children learn to manage their own behaviour. The childminder is a good role model. She is calm and gives children clear explanations about the expectations of good behaviour. The childminder effectively supports children's good health and helps them to develop their self-care skills, appropriate to their age. Young children develop their skills in feeding themselves and independently drink from cups. Older children are competent at serving themselves healthy snacks. All children benefit from fresh air and exercise on a daily basis.

Outcomes for children are good

All children make good progress in their learning. They are working comfortably within the range of development typical for their age. They are developing the key skills and independence they need to prepare them well for the next stages of their learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	209237
Local authority	Lincolnshire
Inspection number	854457
Type of provision	Childminder
Day care type	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	2 - 10
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	8
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	24 February 2011
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 1993 and lives in Bourne, Lincolnshire. She operates all year round from 7.30am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, except bank holidays and family holidays.

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