

Childminder report

Inspection date	26 February 2019
Previous inspection date	28 July 2015

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
Effectiveness of 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 form close relationships with the childminder. She offers cuddles and reassurance when very young children are tired or upset, helping them to feel secure.
- The childminder works closely with other settings that children attend. For example, she finds out the topics and themes children follow at nursery and incorporates these in the explorations and activities she provides. This helps to extend children's learning.
- The childminder makes very good use of the local environment. Children regularly visit the local zoo, country parks and farms to help them learn about animals and the world around them.
- The childminder finds out what children have been doing at home and shares information with parents about their child's care and progress. This helps to promote continuity in all children's learning and development.
- Children confidently select toys and equipment that interest them. They make choices for themselves to help support their personal development. Young children rummage in large boxes and feel the texture of the construction blocks they find.
- The childminder does not encourage children enough to find solutions to problems or predict what might happen next while they experiment and explore to help them develop their thinking skills.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- encourage children to solve problems, predict what might happen next and think through answers to questions themselves.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the childminder's home. She spoke to the childminder and children at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector discussed the childminder's teaching and the impact on children's learning with the childminder.
- The inspector checked evidence of the suitability of the childminder and other family members and looked at a range of documents, including policies and children's records.
- The inspector read letters from parents and took account of their views.

Inspector

Katrina Rodden

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The childminder knows how to report any concerns she might have about children's welfare. She checks equipment such as car seats and pushchairs, to help ensure they remain in a safe condition. Any hazards or risks are removed or minimised to help keep children safe. The childminder works closely with other local childminders. They share ideas and complete online training courses at the same time, giving them opportunities to discuss what they have learnt to help enhance their knowledge and understanding even more. The childminder welcomes feedback from parents and children to help her adapt and improve the quality of care and education she provides.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Children welcome the childminder to join in their games and activities. They share books together and talk about the pictures and stories. Children sort model animals into different categories, such as farm animals and those found in a zoo. They count the creatures and work out which ones are the largest. This helps to support children's development of mathematical concepts. The childminder takes children to organised groups to help extend their learning and experiences even further. Very young children enjoy moving to music. They use their whole bodies to join in action songs and rhymes, assisting their physical and listening skills.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

The childminder provides opportunities for children to mix with others of a similar age. This helps them to learn to speak and listen in groups, and to share equipment and resources. The childminder gently reminds children to take turns and to be kind to others. She works closely with parents, using consistent approaches to help encourage children to behave well. The childminder follows the sensitive procedures she has developed to help settle children in her care. Parents leave children for short periods to help them develop confidence in the new environment. The childminder gathers important information from parents, including any known allergies children might have, their daily routine and what they like to do or play with. This helps the childminder provide familiar and suitable activities and care right from the start.

Outcomes for children are good

Children make good progress in their learning and development. They use open spaces to practise their running, balancing and climbing skills, helping acquire spatial awareness and coordination. Children learn to recognise numbers and letters in preparation for their continued learning. They competently carry out tasks independently such as putting on their shoes and coats. Children confidently use pencils and concentrate during their chosen activities. When the time comes, children are ready to move on to nursery and school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	219793
Local authority	Central Bedfordshire
Inspection number	10071558
Type of provision	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Childminder
Age range of children	1 - 3
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	6
Date of previous inspection	28 July 2015

The childminder registered in 1993 and lives in Dunstable. She operates all year round from 8am to 6pm, on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday and from 8am to 3pm on Tuesday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder provides funded early years education for three- and four-year-old children.

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