

Childminder report

Inspection date	31 October 2018
Previous inspection date	4 March 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

The provision is good

- The childminder is well organised and has a very professional attitude. She reflects on her own practice, evaluates the quality of the setting and makes improvements that benefit children.
- Children behave very well. The childminder is a good role model, who teaches children to share, take turns, act with kindness and celebrate differences. She provides a welcoming and stimulating learning environment where children are happy and settled and have formed warm relationships with her.
- The childminder places a strong focus on developing children's early communication and language skills. She knows children well and effectively observes them as they play to plan for their next steps. Children learn through enjoyable, child-led activities, such as building a bat cave and telling stories inside with torches. Children are working in line with typical development for their ages.
- Parents praise the childminder for keeping them well informed about their children's progress and find the childminder very accommodating of their children's care needs. They appreciate her guidance and ongoing support and are thankful that children 'feel secure and part of the family'.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Although the childminder keeps parents up to date with their children's progress, she does not consistently encourage parents to contribute to the initial assessments of their children's learning when they start at the setting.
- Occasionally, the childminder does not give children enough time to think about and respond to questions asked.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- provide children with enough time to think about and respond to questions asked
- support parents more effectively to share what they know about their children's achievements when they first join the setting.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector had discussions with the childminder and children. She reviewed children's records and evidence of the childminder's suitability and qualifications.
- The inspector completed a discussion about an activity with the childminder.
- The inspector looked at and took account of the written feedback of parents.

Inspector

Olivia Barnes

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. The childminder has a good knowledge of the signs of abuse and neglect. She knows what action to take if she has concerns about a child's welfare or safety. The childminder reads books and articles to ensure she is up to date with new initiatives. This helps to improve her knowledge, understanding and practice of how to keep children safe within her care. She has recently changed the format of her journals to ensure all information complies with the General Data Protection Regulation. The childminder listens and acts upon the views of parents and children. Parents receive information about children's next steps and ideas of how to support their learning at home. Parents are very happy with the progress their children make.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The childminder gets actively involved with children to excite and engage them in their play and learning. She shows children how to use objects, for example, showing them how to knead the dough while they make their own play dough. The childminder models language well and communication is encouraged through questioning, telling stories, singing and role play. Early writing skills are promoted and children enjoy forming letters in the flour and drawing around each other's bodies with crayons. Children are confident to express their ideas and make choices about what they want to play with to lead their own learning. The childminder plans enjoyable, hands-on activities which interest and excite children. They are captivated exploring colour mixing with Halloween potions. Mathematical skills are actively promoted and children enjoy naming two-dimensional shapes and seeing who has got the biggest and smallest feet.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

The childminder's home is a happy and welcoming environment and children thoroughly enjoy spending time there. They respond positively to the childminder's instructions, encouragement and praise and relish opportunities to earn stickers for their own charts. Mutual respect for one another is at the heart of this setting and children play harmoniously together in a calm atmosphere. Children are encouraged to celebrate their differences and enjoy telling each other what is special about the play dough model they have each made. The childminder knows when children are tired, hungry or unwell and responds appropriately to ensure their individual needs are met. She ensures that parents' wishes are followed, such as providing food to cater for dietary requirements, administering inhalers when appropriate and helping to toilet-train children successfully. Children enjoy their social mealtimes and they develop a positive attitude to leading a healthy lifestyle.

Outcomes for children are good

The childminder promotes children's physical development. Children spend time outdoors and have regular outings to local amenities and parks. They have good levels of concentration and respond well to the clear routines and expectations established by the childminder. Children make good progress from their starting points and they develop the key skills needed to be ready for school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	304063
Local authority	Cheshire West and Chester
Inspection number	10060163
Type of provision	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Childminder
Age range of children	3 - 13
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	9
Date of previous inspection	4 March 2015

The childminder registered in 1987 and lives in Neston, Wirral. She operates all year round, from 7.30am to 6pm from Monday to Thursday, except for bank holidays and family holidays.

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