

Childminder report

Inspection date	5 February 2019
Previous inspection date	28 September 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

- The childminder is caring and positive towards the children and helps them to feel safe and secure. Children, including those who have only been looked after by the childminder for a short while, are very settled and happy. They develop warm relationships with the childminder and each other.
- The childminder promotes children's communication and language skills well. She makes use of conversation in every activity. She varies questions to extend children's understanding and gives them time to work their ideas through before assisting.
- Partnership working is effective. The childminder fully engages with parents and other professionals to support the children's learning and development. She regularly shares her detailed assessments of children's progress with them to swiftly close any gaps in children's learning.
- The childminder demonstrates a commitment to promoting healthy lifestyles. Children learn and understand the benefits of keeping active and eating well.
- The childminder does not use self-evaluation well enough to monitor her practice and identify areas to extend her already good teaching skills to the highest level.
- Children are not consistently encouraged to participate in routines that help to keep them safe, such as tidying away resources to reduce tripping hazards.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen self-evaluation processes to sharply focus on helping to raise the quality of teaching to the highest level
- make better use of opportunities to encourage children's participation in routines that help to keep them safe.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed different activities and assessed the impact these had on children's learning.
- The inspector completed a joint evaluation of an activity with the childminder.
- The inspector held a number of discussions with the childminder. She looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of all persons living at the premises.
- The inspector spoke with children during the inspection.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents through written feedback provided.

Inspector

Adele Banton

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. The childminder updates her knowledge of safeguarding and wider child protection issues to ensure she can quickly identify and address any concerns relating to children's welfare. The childminder uses her assistant when required and supervises them well. She ensures that his safeguarding knowledge is kept up to date. The childminder and her assistant both hold appropriate first-aid certificates and know how to respond to a child in a medical emergency. The childminder actively seeks training and support to enhance the quality of her provision. For example, she recently attended training to further develop her understanding of how to support children's communication and language development. The childminder knows children in her care very well and understands where they are in their learning. This helps her to identify any gaps in their development and provide additional support where necessary.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The childminder has a kind and caring approach. She is skilled at understanding when to allow children space to lead their own play and activities. For example, children immerse themselves in their imagination as they play with small-world figures for long periods of time. The childminder provides a range of stimulating play experiences which interest children and motivate their play. For example, older children concentrate intently as they try to open locks with keys. The childminder uses good teaching to build on children's learning. For instance, as children play with coloured ice, she helps children to learn the names of the colours and uses mathematical language, such as 'biggest' and 'smallest'.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

The childminder develops warm, trusting relationships with children. She offers babies cuddles and reassurance when they need it and responds to their individual needs well, for example recognising when they are tired and hungry. The childminder works closely with parents to enable her to remain knowledgeable and up to date with children's changing care needs. She has daily discussions with them and completes diaries about the children's day to contribute positively to this. Children have regular opportunities to enjoy fresh air on walks to places in the community, such as local parks and the library. These places help to promote children's growing knowledge and understanding of the world. The childminder takes babies and young children to local toddler groups where they learn to develop their social skills and confidence in a larger group.

Outcomes for children are good

Children make good progress and gain the skills they require for their next stage in learning. The childminder helps children to gain confidence in their own abilities. She encourages them to help with everyday tasks, such as helping to prepare lunch. Older children enjoy drawing, which supports their early writing skills. Younger children enjoy self-selecting resources and are encouraged to be independent.

Setting details

Unique reference number	304075
Local authority	Cheshire East
Inspection number	10062143
Type of provision	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 10
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	11
Date of previous inspection	28 September 2015

The childminder registered in 1990 and lives in Congleton, Cheshire. She operates all year round from 7.30am to 6pm, Monday to Friday.

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