

Childminder Report

Inspection date

1 October 2015

Previous inspection date

9 May 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

- Children are central to everything that the dedicated and inspiring childminder does. Her excellent evaluations of practice and regular discussions with children, parents and others are very clearly focused on improving provision. This helps to ensure that children are provided with the very highest quality of care and learning.
- The childminder provides excellent opportunities for children to be actively involved in initiating and directing their own learning. She listens attentively to children and uses what she learns, along with information from her regular assessments, in order to plan exciting activities that provide optimal challenges to children.
- Children are exceptionally happy and settled. The caring and welcoming childminder knows them very well and actively responds to their every need. The comfort, support and reassurance that she continually offers to children helps to ensure that they are fully assured and confident in various social situations, and as they move to school.
- The childminder highly regards children's safety. She has made many changes to her home to ensure that children can move freely and safely between the indoor and outdoor environments. On outings the childminder ensures that she has her occasional assistant with her to maintain the highest levels of supervision to help keep children safe.
- Partnerships with parents are superb. The childminder is highly skilled in engaging all parents at every possible opportunity. Parents are kept informed of their children's learning every step of the way and are provided with inspiring ideas for reinforcing and extending children's learning at home.
- The childminder is an exceptional role model. Children readily share their toys, have impeccable manners and learn to accept the needs of others. They enjoy taking a leading role and actively initiate a star of the day chair to celebrate and share each other's achievements.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- build on children's knowledge of their natural environment even further when events occur spontaneously during play.

Inspection activities

- The inspector was given a tour of the areas used for childminding.
- The inspector took account of the views from parents and carers spoken to on the day of the inspection and from comments noted on the parent feedback forms.
- The inspector examined a range of documents. These included the policies and procedures, evidence of suitability checks, a record of the childminder's training, children's learning files and the provider's self-evaluation form.
- The inspector observed children during their freely chosen activities, both indoors and outside.
- The inspector held discussions with the childminder and the children throughout the inspection.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the childminder during a planned activity.

Inspector

Charlotte Bowe

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

The arrangements for safeguarding are highly effective. Recruitment procedures are extremely robust. The childminder has an excellent understanding of the procedures to follow if she has any concerns about a child's welfare. The highly qualified childminder is dedicated to her role and in extending her already first-rate knowledge and skills. Her continual research on the internet and from early years related literature inspires her to provide meaningful activities that support children to excel in their learning and development. Children's progress and learning is very closely monitored to swiftly identify and support any gaps. The childminder has an exceptional relationship with her occasional assistant and monitors their performance very well. She continually shares information about children's care and learning so that they have an excellent understanding of their needs. The childminder welcomes her assistant into the setting on a regular basis so that excellent relationships are formed with the children in preparation for any planned trips.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

The quality of teaching is outstanding. Children develop an exceptional understanding of shapes when making arrangements to create a picture. The childminder continually challenges children as they play, in order to deepen their learning at every opportunity. For example, children thoroughly enjoy exploring creative materials, such as bubbles and closely observe the shapes that are created. They develop exceptional physical skills when using tools to draw a shape. The childminder's excellent use of questioning helps to ensure that children are continuously thinking for themselves. Children eagerly talk about their natural environment and the living things they find. They enjoy linking this to familiar songs and listen attentively to the childminder who skilfully explains the reasons why a spider needs its web. However, very occasionally the childminder does not quickly respond to spontaneous events that occur, such as the noise of a horse going by, to build on children's knowledge of their natural environment even further.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Children are welcomed into this inclusive and supportive environment with a friendly smile. They form exceptional relationships with the childminder during settling-in sessions that are skilfully tailored to their needs. Children actively develop their own play themes. The childminder encourages children to engage others to promote early friendships. Children enjoy carrying out tasks for themselves. They learn how to solve their own problems and manage risks for themselves when assessing how to select their drinks from the worktop safely. The childminder promotes healthy lifestyles exceptionally well. Children develop an excellent understanding of the effects that physical exercise has on their bodies and enjoy using technology to record their physical activity.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

Children make outstanding progress in their learning and development. Their curiosity and passion for learning is ignited by the extensive range of high-quality experiences that the childminder provides. These are skilfully shaped to children's individual learning needs and interests. This helps children to quickly gain the skills they need for school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	317150
Local authority	Cumbria
Inspection number	847720
Type of provision	Childminder
Day care type	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 14
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	5
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	9 May 2011
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 1999 and lives in Stainton. The childminder occasionally works with an assistant. She operates all year round from 8am to 6pm, Monday to Thursday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder holds an appropriate qualification at level 3.

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