

Childminder Report

Inspection date

28 March 2018

Previous inspection date

30 September 2014

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
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

- Partnerships with parents are very well established. The childminder and her assistant keep parents very well informed about every aspect of their children's care and education. Parents are extremely positive about the childminder and comment that their children make good progress.
- The childminder and her assistant provide a warm, friendly and relaxed environment. Children settle quickly and demonstrate they feel safe and secure in their care. They enthusiastically join in with activities and have good levels of concentration.
- The childminder and her assistant promote children's social skills well. They encourage children to use good manners, such as saying 'please' and 'thank you'. They help children to learn to play cooperatively together, to share and take turns.
- The childminder and her assistant reflect on their practice and the service they provide well. They take account of the views of parents and children when planning, to make changes and improvements to the setting.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- On occasions, the childminder misses opportunities to extend older children's understanding of simple calculation to extend their mathematical skills further.
- The childminder does not create good opportunities for the youngest children to explore, investigate and learn about the natural world.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- develop older children's understanding of simple calculation to extend their mathematical skills further
- create more opportunities for the youngest children to explore, investigate and learn about the natural world.

Inspection activities

- The inspector had a tour of the premises.
- The inspector observed the quality of teaching and the impact on children's progress. The inspector spoke to the childminder, her assistant and children throughout the inspection.
- The inspector completed a joint observation of an activity with the childminder.
- The inspector looked at documentation and records, including evidence of the suitability of adults within the home.
- The inspector took account of parents' comments.

Inspector

Eileen Grimes

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. The childminder has a good knowledge of the procedures to follow in the event of any child protection concerns. She has completed the necessary suitability checks for her assistant to ensure her suitability to work with children. The childminder has a range of detailed policies and procedures, which underpin her practice. The childminder and her assistant monitor the educational programmes and progress of children effectively. The relationship between the childminder and her assistant is professional and supportive. The childminder provides effective supervision and coaching to continually develop her assistant's knowledge and skills. The childminder makes good use of advice from external agencies and other childminders to help her to develop her provision. The childminder and her assistant have accessed training and reflected well on the impact of any changes to their practice.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The childminder and her assistant know where children are in their development. They observe and assess children's learning and use this information effectively to plan for their next steps. The childminder and her assistant follow what the children want to do and readily change activities in response to young children's short concentration spans. They guide children's play well and extend activities to support their learning. For example, they introduce toy cars to a mark-making activity to encourage and involve younger children. The childminder and her assistant give priority to children's speech and communication skills. They engage children skilfully, modelling conversation and introducing new vocabulary. Children enjoy outings to the local playground. They develop their physical skills on the play equipment and enjoy walks in the local community.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children form secure attachments to the childminder and her assistant, calling their names as they play. The childminder notices the changing needs of the children and offers kind support to any child who is feeling tired. Children hold their arms out for cuddles and the childminder responds quickly to ensure they feel secure and content. The childminder helps children to learn how to keep safe. For example, she supports them to understand how to walk safely indoors. The childminder offers high praise, helping children to develop a good sense of achievement and self-worth. For example, she praises them when they help to tidy up and help to care for their environment.

Outcomes for children are good

Children make good progress and develop the key skills needed to be ready for the next stage in their learning, such as starting nursery or school. They develop self-care skills relevant to their age and learn to manage their own personal hygiene. Children are motivated learners who confidently lead their own play. Older children are keen to recognise and write their own names and younger children explore a wealth of opportunities to experiment with making marks.

Setting details

Unique reference number	500897
Local authority	Darlington
Inspection number	1103809
Type of provision	Childminder
Day care type	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	1 - 8
Total number of places	12
Number of children on roll	7
Name of registered person	
Date of previous inspection	30 September 2014
Telephone number	

The childminder registered in 2001. She operates all year round from 8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, except during bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder works with an assistant.

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