

Childminder Report

Inspection date

2 February 2016

Previous inspection date

22 March 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

- The well-qualified childminder has an astute understanding of how children learn and accurately assesses their development. This helps her to provide a range of highly stimulating experiences that meet children's individual needs and offer levels of challenge that inspire them to learn.
- The childminder is extremely experienced. She continually seeks additional knowledge and expertise. She proactively attends a variety of purposeful training courses. The childminder successfully implements knowledge gained to enhance children's experiences. This approach contributes extremely well to the high standards of care and education children benefit from.
- The childminder develops remarkably strong partnerships with parents. She implements a wealth of ideas to support a shared approach towards children's care. One such idea is the resource packs and ideas provided for parents which help to extend children's learning at home. All achievements made at home and current interests and events are included in the planned learning for each child.
- Children play a key role in their day. They develop excellent self-esteem, are very self-assured and eager to learn. They make group decisions, such as developing friendship rules together. They sign their own copy and agree to abide by the rules. This is one way that children develop a clear awareness of social behaviours and recognise the impact of their behaviour on others.
- The childminder works in a commendable manner with other early years provision that children attend. She pays meticulous attention to ensuring that she shares comprehensive information with them about children's learning and development. This further supports children's excellent development.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- build further on the excellent opportunities provided for children to continue making rapid progress, challenging those children achieving the highest levels of progress even further.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector talked with the childminder and children at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector looked at a range of documentation including policies, evidence of the suitability of household members, observation and assessment documentation, and the safeguarding procedures.
- The inspector observed a planned activity and jointly evaluated this with the childminder.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents as provided in documentation.
- The inspector reviewed the childminder's self-evaluation with her.

Inspector
Lynne Talbot

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The childminder has an extremely astute awareness of how to protect children. She completes frequent training in safeguarding, including child exploitation and online safety. She has robust knowledge of child protection procedures and how to report concerns. The childminder undertakes research regularly to help her to keep abreast of changes to legislation. She then updates her comprehensive policies and procedures that help to underpin her excellent practice. The childminder has high expectations of herself and consistently aims to provide exceptional quality care. She uses self-evaluation consistently to support improvement and takes full account of children's, as well as parents' views and recommendations to add to her planning.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

The childminder provides activities for children that significantly enhance their eagerness to learn. Children enthusiastically use a range of vehicles to manoeuvre along a roadway that she has drawn. They extend the play using toy telephones to discuss emergencies and safety as they call 999. The childminder offers simple ways for the youngest children to explore mathematics. Amongst other things, children identify the numerals on the doors of houses on the roadway and learn to consider routes, as they guide their vehicles towards the large or small trees that are drawn. The childminder provides a wealth of opportunities for children to hear and use speech. The quality of her interaction with children is excellent. She routinely gets down to their level when speaking and offers time and space for children to think problems through by themselves. Children make rapid progress in their learning. The childminder has identified that there is more potential to continue challenging those children achieving the highest levels of progress even further.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

The childminder provides extensive support to parents and children during settling-in periods. As part of this, they have a series of short visits, either in their own home or at the childminder's home. Children quickly form trusting relationships with her. The childminder makes excellent use of the environment. Rich, varied and imaginative experiences are on offer for children, both indoors and outdoors. Children gain an excellent understanding of good health and have numerous opportunities to be active. One thing they do is to help to plant and care for a wide range of fruits and vegetables, using the activity to discuss healthy eating. Children pick the produce and use it to help to make jam and meals together, or take it home to share with their parents. Children create bird feeders and a squirrel nesting box and feeders, as well as bug boxes. This is one way that the childminder helps children to closely observe, and learn about, the natural world.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

All children make rapid progress given their starting points. The childminder reviews children's progress carefully to help her to identify any support that may be needed. Her meticulous attention to individual learning plans means that all children receive support to help them to continue to make the best possible progress. They are exceptionally well prepared for school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	506834
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	848024
Type of provision	Childminder
Day care type	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	2 - 11
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	15
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	22 March 2011
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 1997 and lives in Watford. She operates all year round from 7.15am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder holds an appropriate qualification at level 3. She provides care for disabled children and those with special educational needs.

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