

Childminder Report

Inspection date

23 March 2018

Previous inspection date

26 March 2015

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

- The childminder evaluates her setting, asking for the views of others. For example, she asks parents to complete questionnaires about the service she offers to help her identify areas for improvement. Parents comment that they are very happy with the care the childminder gives their children.
- Care routines are promoted well. For instance, children wash their hands before eating and indicate when they require help with personal care routines. This positively promotes their physical and emotional well-being.
- The childminder positively enhances children's mathematical skills, for example, when they pretend to be at the shops. She helps them count numbers in sequence as they use different food tins to build a tower, asking them what number comes next.
- Children are acquiring good problem-solving skills. For example, when completing a floor puzzle, the childminder suggests that children look for smaller or larger pieces.
- The childminder plans activities to help develop children's emerging early writing skills. For example, children enthusiastically ask for their notebooks and confidently make squiggly marks.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Occasionally, the childminder does not make effective use of her assessment procedures to help her quickly identify any gaps in children's learning.
- The childminder does not always identify areas of her professional development to further promote the quality of teaching and learning opportunities for children.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- make better use of assessment systems to ensure any gaps in children's learning are quickly identified and appropriate measures put in place so that all children make rapid progress
- identify areas for professional development to raise the quality of practice and further improve outcomes for children.

Inspection activities

- The inspector read a selection of completed parents' questionnaires and considered their views.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the childminder.
- The inspector spoke with children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector viewed a range of documentation, including the childminder's first-aid certificate, policies and procedures and children's records.
- The inspector viewed all areas of the premises used for childminding.

Inspector

Amanda Hartigan

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The childminder has a good knowledge of how to support children's welfare and what to do if she has concerns about a child. She knows the signs and symptoms of possible abuse and regularly updates her safeguarding and child protection training. Safeguarding is effective. The childminder undertakes regular checks of her environment and effectively promotes children's awareness of how to manage their own risks. This helps to keep children safe from harm. Partnerships with parents are good. They receive regular updates about their children's development. The childminder observes children participating in activities to help her plan for the next steps in their development.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The childminder has a good understanding of her responsibility to ensure children learn and develop. When children first start, she gathers a range of helpful information about their abilities, likes and dislikes, in conjunction with parents. This information enables the childminder to plan activities that all children will enjoy, according to their individual needs and interests. She knows younger children enjoy playing picture snap cards, especially as they feature their favourite characters. They stay motivated and concentrate on the activity for extended periods of time. Children's communication and language development is very good. The childminder speaks clearly to children and carefully repeats words that they are having difficulty pronouncing. This helps all children make good progress. Children are frequently praised for their efforts. This positively promotes their self-esteem and self-confidence as they participate in their chosen activities.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

The childminder provides a warm and caring environment for all children. They confidently select resources and mostly play well together. Behaviour is age appropriate. When younger children become frustrated, the childminder gently reminds them to share nicely. This effectively promotes children's social and emotional skills as they learn acceptable behaviour boundaries. House rules further promote their understanding of expected behaviour. Children have opportunities to meet with other children, such as when they visit the local park to use the play apparatus. Here they can run around and get out of breath as they chase each other. This helps develop children's good physical and social skills.

Outcomes for children are good

Children develop their independence skills. For example, they are learning to manage zips and to put on and take off cardigans, jumpers and coats. This helps develop the skills they require for their future learning, such as nursery or school. Children enjoy daily physical exercise. They walk the older children to school with the childminder and discuss the different vehicles they see. For example, they stop and watch a skip lorry delivering a skip to a nearby house. They excitedly discuss what is happening, asking good questions to enhance their understanding.

Setting details

Unique reference number	506942
Local authority	Northumberland
Inspection number	1091127
Type of provision	Childminder
Day care type	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	0 - 11
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	9
Name of registered person	
Date of previous inspection	26 March 2015
Telephone number	

The childminder registered in 1993 and lives in Prudhoe, Northumberland. She operates all year round from 7am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder holds a qualification at level 3. She provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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