

Childminder Report

Inspection date

25 January 2016

Previous inspection date

9 March 2011

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 and her assistants have developed close, caring relationships with the children in their care. They provide a warm, secure and nurturing environment so children quickly settle and feel secure.
- The childminder provides a wide range of activities and resources to support children's learning in all areas. She effectively organises her space and toys so the children can make safe and independent choices in their play. Children make good progress and develop the skills they need for future learning.
- Children are well behaved, considerate and polite. The childminder has high expectations of all children and helps them to learn to respect each other and the environment.
- The childminder and her assistants accurately evaluate the effectiveness of the setting. They effectively consider the views of parents, children and other early years professionals when identifying areas for improvement. This helps to have a positive impact on the care and education they provide for children.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The childminder has not yet devised an ambitious programme for ongoing professional development aimed at raising her knowledge and skills, and those of her assistants, to an even higher level.
- Although the partnerships with parents are good overall, the childminder does not always give all parents precise information about their children's next steps in learning so they can support their children to make even better progress in their development at home.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance the programme for professional development so that is focused on raising further the quality of care and learning
- share more-precise information with parents about children's next steps in learning and work together so that children's learning is extended to the highest level.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector viewed a focused activity with the childminder and discussed the children's progress and achievements.
- The inspector viewed the children's development records.
- The inspector accompanied the childminder as she collected children from a local nursery school.
- The inspector reviewed evidence of the childminder's qualifications, the suitability of the childminder and her assistants, self-evaluation, risk assessment and policies and procedures.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day and from their responses to surveys organised by the childminder.

Inspector

Patricia Champion

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The childminder and her assistants fully understand the procedures to follow should they have a safeguarding concern about a child in their care. They all hold first-aid qualifications so they can deal with accidents and minor injuries. The childminder helps children to stay safe in her home by carrying out regular risk assessments. She acts as a positive mentor and actively encourages the assistants to take on appropriate responsibilities when supporting her. The assistants help to prepare the food at mealtimes. They complete administrative duties to ensure that all the required paperwork is in place and kept up to date to reflect current legislation. The childminder tracks children's achievements to help identify any gaps in their progress. She has established good working relationships with the other provisions that children attend. Parents' feedback about their children's learning and the childminder's service is highly positive.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The childminder and her assistants have has good relationships with each child and they know them well. Teaching is good as the activity planning is flexible and child-led, allowing children to develop their own ideas and experiences. The childminder regularly assesses children's progress so that she is aware of their skills, abilities and interests. Children are curious and inquisitive learners. They approach their play with enthusiasm and they are eager to join in activities. Children's vocabulary is developing rapidly due to the good interaction they have with the childminder and her assistants. They confidently sort and categorise items according to size and colour. The childminder fosters children's early interest in letter sounds and mark making. This helps to promote children's early literacy skills.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children are well supported to learn how to live healthy lifestyles. They are effectively encouraged to taste and try different vegetables and talk about the food that is good for them. The freshly prepared meals are balanced and nutritious and take into account children's dietary needs. Children have regular fresh air and exercise. The garden is currently being imaginatively renovated to benefit the children. The childminder also makes good use of local parks so children can develop their physical skills and understanding of the natural world. Children have a good awareness of how to keep themselves safe. They practise road safety and know why they need to wear seat belts when they travel in the car. The childminder has regular contact with other childminders so children mix socially with others. This supports children to confidently embrace new situations and make new friends, to prepare them for starting full-time education.

Outcomes for children are good

All children make good progress in their learning. They are confidently working within the range of development that is typical for their age. They are well prepared for the next stage in their learning, including starting school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	560131
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	855619
Type of provision	Childminder
Day care type	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	0 - 10
Total number of places	12
Number of children on roll	7
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	9 March 2011
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 1999 and lives in Chelmsford, Essex. She operates all year round from 7am to 7pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder works with two assistants.

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