

Childminder Report

Inspection date

13 April 2016

Previous inspection date

11 May 2010

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
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

- Children are very happy and settled. The childminder has a kind and caring personality, and children build strong relationships with her.
- The childminder gathers meaningful information from parents about what children can do when they first start. She ensures her settling-in arrangements are flexible to meet children's individual needs.
- Children are independent and confident to explore the safe and welcoming environment. A varied range of resources is accessible to children. They keenly select what they want to play with, developing their independence.
- The qualified childminder values opportunities to further her skills and knowledge. She tailors her learning effectively to ensure children are well supported in everything they do.
- The childminder places a high priority on promoting children's communication and language development. She models effective listening skills and builds upon children's vocabulary as she teaches them the pronunciation of the new words they attempt to say.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The childminder does not always consider more precise planning to promote the learning of children who like to spend time outdoors.
- The planning of some activities is not sharply focused enough on developing children's specific interests.

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 the outdoor environment to promote learning for those children who like to spend time outside
- enhance children's enjoyment and learning opportunities in planned activities, focusing more closely on their current interests.

Inspection activities

- The inspector spoke with the childminder at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector looked at records of children's learning, a selection of policies and other records.
- The inspector observed a planned activity and jointly evaluated this with the childminder.
- The inspector checked evidence of the suitability of all household members, qualifications of the childminder and the childminder's self-evaluation form.
- The inspector took account of responses from parents in written documentation.

Inspector

Ruth Patel

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The childminder has a secure understanding of the procedure to follow if she has concerns about children's welfare. Clear policies and procedures underpin the childminder's good practice to help keep children safe and to promote their well-being. The childminder effectively reflects on the service she provides for families, identifying strengths and areas where her practice could improve. Strong links with childminding colleagues help her in this self-evaluation procedure, as well as gaining opinions from parents. The childminder knows the importance of working in partnership with other early years providers. She has strategies in place to share information about children, where appropriate.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The childminder has a good understanding of how children learn through play. She carefully observes children and gets to know them well. She accurately assesses their stages of development and plans ways to help them make progress. However, activities are not always sharply focused enough on developing children's individual interests. The quality of her teaching is good overall. She skilfully weaves in opportunities during planned activities to promote children's early mathematical skills. For example, she models counting and encourages children to explore size and shape when playing with sensory materials. Children have opportunities to listen to stories; they enjoy joining in with repeated phrases and delight in using hand puppets as part of their imaginative play. Children show great concentration as they spend time completing puzzles, rotating each piece to make them fit together.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children are very happy and content in this homely and welcoming setting. They develop strong emotional attachments to the childminder and feel secure. The childminder gives constant praise and encouragement throughout activities. This enables children to develop their self-esteem and confidence. The childminder places a strong emphasis on helping children become independent in preparation for the next stage of their learning. She ensures that they have the practical skills they need, such as being able to put on their own coat and shoes. Children learn how to be responsible as they help tidy up. Children's health and hygiene needs are all met efficiently and the childminder encourages children to understand how to keep themselves safe. The childminder regularly takes children on outings. This helps them make a connection with their local environment and feel part of their community.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are making good progress in all areas of their learning. They acquire new skills and are working comfortably within levels of development expected for their age. They are motivated and curious learners who are developing key skills that they need for their future learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY216175
Local authority	Northamptonshire
Inspection number	848172
Type of provision	Childminder
Day care type	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	8
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	11 May 2010
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 2002 and lives in Northamptonshire. She operates all year round from 7.30am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder holds a relevant early years qualification at level 3.

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Piccadilly Gate
Store St
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 4234
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