

Childminder report

Inspection date	8 January 2019
Previous inspection date	6 July 2015

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
Effectiveness of 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 observe children's play carefully and assess their progress accurately. They know children well and use this information to plan a variety of interesting and stimulating activities that help to meet children's interests and learning needs.
- The childminder provides a warm, welcoming and homely environment where children are happy, confident and settle quickly. Children's behaviour is good.
- The childminder establishes strong relationships with parents. There is a daily two-way exchange of information regarding children's care and developmental needs. This helps to ensure a consistent approach.
- Children find out about their wider community as they enjoy frequent outings, for example, to shops, leisure facilities and parks. They attend playgroups where they mix with others and develop their social skills.
- The childminder and her assistants support the development of children's language skills effectively. For example, they provide ongoing commentary and introduce new words to extend children's vocabulary during play activities.
- The childminder does not specifically focus the professional development programme for herself and her assistants on raising the quality of teaching to support the best outcomes for children.
- The childminder has not developed highly effective methods to set priorities for improvement and raise the standard of the provision to the highest level.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- target the professional development programme to help raise the quality of teaching and children's achievements even further
- enhance processes for reflecting on the quality of the provision to help identify clear priorities for improvement.

Inspection activities

- The inspector completed a tour of the areas of the premises used for childminding.
- The inspector spoke with the childminder, assistants and children at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector completed an evaluated activity with the childminder.
- The inspector looked at documentation, including evidence of the suitability of adults living and working on the premises, and took into account written feedback from parents.

Inspector

Cathryn Clarricoates

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

Arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The childminder is clear about her responsibilities concerning child protection. She understands what action to take should she have any concerns about a child's welfare. The childminder ensures her assistants also recognise possible causes for concern and know the procedures to follow. The childminder completes effective risk assessments. She takes appropriate steps to reduce hazards where children play, indoors and outdoors, and also for outings. Regular meetings take place with other childminders to exchange ideas. Parents comment that they feel fully involved in their children's care and education. The childminder provides effective support for her team of assistants.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The childminder and her assistants work well together. They play alongside children, listening to their ideas, and asking them questions to help promote their thinking skills. Children are encouraged to use their imaginations, for example, when creating pictures in frames, using a wide range of exciting materials. They explore and investigate textures and shapes, including a selection of colourful feathers, cellophane and natural resources, such as pine cones, shells and pebbles. Children talk enthusiastically about their creations and concentrate well for significant periods of time. The childminder encourages children to practise their early mathematical skills, such as when they play a game matching pegs to numbers.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children thoroughly enjoy their time with the childminder and her assistants. The childminder organises the playroom and outdoor areas well. Children make independent choices from freely available resources and take the lead in their own play. The childminder and her assistants provide plenty of praise and encouragement. They collect information from parents from the start about children's likes, dislikes and abilities. This helps them to support children to follow their familiar routines and feel a sense of belonging. Children form secure attachments with the childminder and her assistants. They benefit from healthy snacks and meals, rest when they need to and have daily opportunities for exercise and fresh air.

Outcomes for children are good

Children develop the skills and attitudes that prepare them for their future learning and the eventual move on to school. They practise their early literacy skills as they share their favourite books and listen to familiar rhymes and songs. Children delight in helping with everyday tasks, such as tidying away resources and equipment, and strengthen their independence skills. They form firm friendships across the age ranges.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY255055
Local authority	Durham
Inspection number	10062698
Type of provision	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 10
Total number of places	18
Number of children on roll	30
Date of previous inspection	6 July 2015

The childminder registered in 2003. She operates all year round from 6am to 6.30pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder is registered to work with three assistants. The childminder holds a relevant childcare qualification at level 3. The childminder provides funded early education for two- and three-year-old children.

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