

Childminder Report

Inspection date

12 February 2016

Previous inspection date

22 March 2012

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

- Children engage well in their self-chosen activities. As they play with small-world buildings and figures, they work together and use negotiation skills. The childminder plays alongside children and talks to them about how they are keeping the play-people safe as they pretend to cross the road.
- The childminder helps children develop independent skills very well. They are competent in changing their clothes for their dance class. They demonstrate their skills in using tools as they use a knife to prepare vegetables to feed to the rabbits.
- The childminder takes children to a range of toddler groups. They meet with other childminders and children. These activities give children opportunities to socialise with other children. In addition, they benefit from a wider range of activities, helping to contribute to the good progress they make.
- The childminder carries out thorough risk assessments in her home. She constantly considers risks on outings and reviews these according to the age of the children she is caring for.
- Through written documentation and thank you cards, parents express their high levels of satisfaction with the care and education that the childminder provides.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- At times, the childminder plans activities that take too long and younger children lose their excitement and motivation to join in.
- The initial information about children's development that the childminder collects from parents is not always precise enough to give her an accurate understanding of their starting points in all areas of learning.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- refine planning, so that the youngest children stay engaged and motivated to learn
- explore further ways to collect more detailed initial information from parents, in order to fully assess and build on children's starting points in learning.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the childminder joining in activities with the children and at appropriate times, jointly discussed the learning that was taking place.
- The inspector saw the areas of the premises and garden used for childminding.
- The inspector looked at children's assessment records and planning documentation. Evidence of the suitability of the childminder and household members and a range of other documents, including the safeguarding policy, were also seen.
- The inspector took account of the of the childminder's self-evaluation form and of the views of parents.

Inspector

Jill Hardaker

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The childminder is confident about child protection procedures which help to protect children's welfare. She is fully aware of her responsibilities to contact relevant agencies should she have any concerns. The childminder evaluates what is working and what she needs to improve. She seeks the views of parents through questionnaires and discussions. The childminder undertakes regular training and benefits from peer support with other childminders. She is currently working towards a level 3 qualification. This is helping her to have an even better understanding of how children learn and develop. The childminder reflects on the activities she provides and children's progress. This helps her to swiftly identify and minimise any gaps in children's learning.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The childminder provides opportunities for children to develop early writing skills. They enjoy drawing pictures and are beginning to write letters and words. She helps to promote children's understanding of mathematics. As children dance, they count how many steps they are taking and the childminder models the use of positional language as they move. The childminder meets with parents when they register with her. She collects some information about what children can already do. However, this is not always detailed enough to give her a precise understanding of children's starting points. The childminder regularly observes and assesses children's ongoing development. She is aware of all children's next steps in learning. She regularly shares her assessments with parents. Through daily discussions, parents provide information about what children have been doing and learning at home.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children are happy and relaxed in the childminder's home. They demonstrate high levels of confidence and self-esteem as they welcome and chat to visitors. The childminder successfully supports children to develop the skills that they need to learn about healthy lifestyles. She provides nutritious, balanced meals and snacks each day and talks to children about healthy eating. Children follow good hygiene practices as they wash their hands at appropriate times. The childminder ensures that children have regular access to the outdoors. They play in the garden and enjoy visits to local woods and parks. These activities help children develop their physical skills as they also benefit from playing in the fresh air. The childminder uses her expertise as a dance teacher to promote children's creativity and well-being. Children learn to express themselves creatively as they move their bodies through dance and movement. They thoroughly enjoy caring for the childminder's rabbits. They explain how to look after them when it is cold by making sure the hutches are covered up.

Outcomes for children are good

All children, considering their starting points, are developing good skills and knowledge in readiness for starting nursery and school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY276316
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	856167
Type of provision	Childminder
Day care type	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	2 - 6
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	5
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	22 March 2012
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 2004 and lives in Harlow. She operates from 7am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, all year round.

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Piccadilly Gate
Store St
Manchester
M1 2WD

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