

Childminder Report

Inspection date

3 August 2015

Previous inspection date

16 November 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Outstanding	1
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Outstanding	1
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Outstanding	1
The setting meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- The childminder takes the greatest care to understand every child, truly valuing them as unique individuals. Children respond to this highly positive approach and flourish in her care. They are secure and positive in their outlook and show a great understanding and respect for each other.
- The childminder uses exemplary teaching methods. Her excellent daily practice is mirrored by her assistant. They offer children an exciting variety of activities that accurately reflect their interests. Children are eager to participate and show a great enthusiasm for learning. They are exceptionally well prepared for school.
- The childminder has a comprehensive understanding of safeguarding procedures. She ensures that her assistant's knowledge is to the same standard. They thoroughly consider every aspect of children's welfare and consistently promote this.
- The childminder's comprehensive reviewing of children's progress enables her to efficiently address any gaps in their learning. Older children now have more opportunities to recognise letters. This greatly supports their early reading skills.
- The childminder works closely with parents. She lends them resources that relate specifically to their children's current development. These thoughtful procedures play a key part in successfully supporting parents to extend their children's learning.
- The childminder is committed to developing her practice even further. She completes a wealth of additional training and actively uses any new knowledge to benefit children. Improvements to the garden mean that this is now more accessible and offers exciting learning opportunities to children of all ages.
- Improved, highly practical procedures support children in understanding the relevance of daily routines and healthy practices, such as washing their hands before eating. They make their own obstacle courses, where they balance, climb, jump and crawl. They talk about how each of these different types of movement benefits their bodies.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- exploit the opportunities to work even more effectively in partnership with other childcare settings that children attend.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the childminder's house and garden.
- The inspector talked with the childminder, her assistant and the children present. She reviewed an activity with the childminder.
- The inspector looked at children's assessment records, planning documentation and evidence of the suitability of household members. She viewed the childminder's self-evaluation information and a range of other documentation, including the safeguarding procedures.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents, as given in their written feedback to the childminder.

Inspector

Kelly Eyre

Inspection findings

How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend. This is outstanding

The childminder and her assistant maintain a positive environment and offer highly relevant support so that all children make excellent progress. The childminder plans all activities exceptionally well so that they fully extend children's learning. Children help to buy seed potatoes and learn about life cycles and growth as they eagerly harvest their crop, excitedly noting the differences in the varieties. The childminder extends this with a picture game where children determine which vegetables grow above ground and which grow underneath. The childminder skilfully adapts activities so that every child participates meaningfully. Children become engrossed as they look for 'golden treasure' in sand. Older children competently use sieves to separate the sand from the treasure. The childminder's highly effective questioning encourages them to work out that the sand particles are smaller than the holes in the sieve and so pass through these. Younger children gauge the different sizes of their treasure as they try to fit them through a funnel. In this way, the childminder supports children in finding things out for themselves and in developing their understanding of mathematical concepts. Meticulous attention to detail means that wherever children choose to play they have numerous creative opportunities. For example, they use simple balance scales in the garden to weigh and compare balls, logs and fruit.

The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children is outstanding

The childminder obtains a wealth of information from parents and shares this with her assistant so that they fully understand children's needs. As a result, children have warm, trusting relationships with both adults. They are emotionally secure and approach their daily play and new challenges with confidence and a highly positive attitude. This prepares them exceptionally well for the move to school. The childminder fully involves children and they play an active part in their learning. They eagerly help plan activities and thoroughly enjoy reviewing their assessment records, showing great pride as they recognise their achievements. Children learn to assess risks, such as how to set out an obstacle course safely. This supports them in developing a very practical awareness of daily safety issues.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision is outstanding

The childminder has an excellent understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage. She shares her knowledge with her assistant and they ensure that their policies support them in meeting all requirements. The childminder supervises her assistant exceptionally well. He attends a wide range of training and the childminder fully supports him in implementing any new knowledge to further enhance children's daily care. The childminder and her assistant comprehensively evaluate their work and accurately identify areas they can improve even more. Their partnership working with other childcare providers is very good. They make excellent use of detailed communication books to exchange assessment and planning information. However, the childminder has recognised the potential to extend these partnerships even further in order to gain enhanced information about children's activities at other settings.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY285013
Local authority	Bedford Borough
Inspection number	861205
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	12
Number of children on roll	18
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	16 November 2011
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 2004 and lives in Wilstead. She operates all year round from 7.30am to 6pm, Monday to Thursday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder works with an assistant.

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