

Childminder report

Inspection date	13 August 2018
Previous inspection date	9 June 2015

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection: Previous inspection:	Outstanding Good	1 2
Effectiveness of leadership and management		Outstanding	1
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Outstanding	1
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Outstanding	1

Summary of key findings for parents

The provision is outstanding

- The childminder gives children highly dedicated individual attention according to their needs. She builds on their interests and choices to provide an exceptional and imaginative play and learning programme.
- The childminder has exceptionally high expectations of children's achievements. She places a highly concentrated focus on children's learning needs until they achieve and surpass their goals.
- Children feel safe and thoroughly at home in the childminder's extremely nurturing and homely setting. They develop an excellent sense of belonging and this helps them to feel content and secure.
- The childminder forms excellent and highly effective partnerships with parents and ensures they are fully involved in their children's learning from the beginning. She sends home games and activities for children to support their continued learning at home. She works in partnership with other settings that children attend to provide continuity and consistency in their learning.
- The childminder reflects carefully on the effectiveness of her practice. She actively seeks the views of parents and other providers on the activities she provides when evaluating the quality of her teaching.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- implement ambitious plans to build on current excellent skills and knowledge, to find even more innovative ways to engage children in exceptional learning activities.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the childminder.
- The inspector held discussions with the childminder and spoke to children.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation, such as children's records, suitability and qualifications, and policies and procedures.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents by reading written comments and testimonials.

Inspector

Jenny Forbes

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is outstanding

Safeguarding is effective. The childminder has an exceptionally thorough knowledge of child protection. She regularly updates her knowledge and reviews her policies in line with current practice and procedures. She has an excellent understanding of risks to children and how to report any concerns. She thoroughly assesses her environment and other play facilities for hazards to ensure she keeps children safe. The childminder monitors children's progress meticulously using approved guidelines and this helps her to identify and close any gaps in their learning quickly. The childminder is very experienced and has a strong drive to continue her learning. She is seeking new and innovative ways to develop her skills even further and refresh the learning programme she provides.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Children are exceptionally motivated and enthusiastic learners. They are creative thinkers and enjoy discovering new and exciting ways of learning. For example, they write the letters of their name in sand and watch them magically disappear as they are smoothed away. The childminder adds a letter matching game to extend the activity, and children learn about the sounds that letters represent as they copy them in the sand. Activities such as this help children's emerging early writing skills and develop their concentration and coordination. The childminder supports children's communication and language development especially well. She engages children in interesting conversation about past events. The childminder makes learning a really enjoyable experience for children. They thoroughly enjoy fishing for numbered ducks with rods. They match the ducks to number cards and this helps to expand their number recognition and counting skills.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Children have extensive opportunities to explore a variety of natural resources that stimulate their curiosity and senses. For example, they weigh quantities of rice, pasta and lentils to find out which are the heaviest and lightest. They relish feeling the textures with their fingers. Children concentrate really hard as they fill a bottle with rice and tiny toys. They take turns searching for a toy inside as they turn it over and over in their hands and enjoy the excitement of finding it. This helps children to become confident and self-assured. They learn exciting facts about nature and life cycles as they handle stick insects and watch caterpillars hatch into butterflies. They make dens in the woods and search for sticks to make 'stickmen' that they see in their favourite story.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

Children make outstanding progress in readiness for school. They have excellent opportunities to develop their physical skills as they climb on stepping stones and climbing frames, strengthening their muscles. Children are independent. They learn to make healthy food choices and know how to keep themselves clean. Children look at books and play with toys that reflect the world around them. They find out about people who are different from themselves and they learn respect and understanding. Children learn to share and take turns and their behaviour is exceptional.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY286374
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	10059625
Type of provision	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Childminder
Age range of children	1 - 8
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	5
Date of previous inspection	9 June 2015

The childminder registered in 2004. She lives in Harlow, Essex. The childminder operates Monday to Friday from 8am to 6pm all year round, except for bank holidays and family holidays. She holds a relevant early years qualification at level 3.

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