

Childminder report

Inspection date: 21 January 2020

Overall effectiveness	Outstanding
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The quality of education

Outstanding

Behaviour and attitudes

Outstanding

Personal development

Outstanding

Leadership and management

Outstanding

Overall effectiveness at previous inspection

Outstanding

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is outstanding

Children have great fun with the childminder. She is extremely kind and caring and the children adore her. She gives them lots of love and individual attention, which helps them to feel happy, safe and secure. Babies are extremely content in the friendly and relaxed atmosphere of the childminder's house. Children are incredibly polite and their behaviour is exemplary. The childminder has exceptionally high expectations of all children. She gives them lots of praise and encouragement, which successfully promotes their confidence and self-esteem. Children gain excellent social skills and happily share and take turns. For example, they kindly remind each other when it is their turn to take a card during a game.

Children benefit from an exceptional range of experiences that capture their interest in learning. They learn how to propagate plants and show great delight when they notice their bulbs growing in the garden. Children enjoy tractor rides at the farm and seeing the elephants at the zoo. The childminder proudly watches them as they take part in the Christmas play at the local toddler group. All these wonderful experiences provide children with an abundance of skills that will support them in their future learning and when they start school.

What does the early years setting do well and what does it need to do better?

- The childminder ensures that her professional development is ongoing, and that it drives forward improvements to her already outstanding practice. For example, she has recently attended training to support her in making accurate assessments of children's learning and development. The childminder uses her wealth of experience and knowledge to share high-quality practice with other childminders in the area.
- The childminder has built exceptional partnerships with the children's families. She keeps parents fully informed about their children's learning. Parents comment that the childminder is 'extremely professional'. They say that 'they couldn't recommend her highly enough' and describe her as being 'a warm and kind person, who has an amazing way of nurturing each child'.
- The childminder skilfully supports children's early speech and language. For example, during a lotto game, the childminder shows them pictures of an armadillo, scorpion and chameleon. Children repeat their names and are encouraged to think about where they live. They place the cards on the different habitats from around the world.
- Children thoroughly enjoy their trips to local toddler groups. They learn to take part in group activities and widen their friendships. They also meet other childminders for outings and events, such as 'welly Wednesday'. Children have wonderful opportunities to play together outdoors in the fresh air.
- Children have daily opportunities to learn care and concern for living things.

They help to feed the chickens and collect their eggs. Children take part in bird watching. They make nest boxes and bird feeders to encourage birds to come into the garden. They identify the different birds they see, which helps to develop their understanding of the world.

- The childminder establishes excellent links with the local school. Teachers are invited to visit her home to meet the children. This supports them superbly well in their move to school. Older children are keen to share their comments about the childminder. For example, during a lesson at school, they write about people 'who make the world a better place'. They write about the childminder, saying that she is kind.
- Children learn excellent practices for a safe and healthy lifestyle. The childminder prepares highly nutritious meals for them. Children are encouraged to eat oranges at snack time. The childminder explains that they contain vitamins, which will help them to stay free of coughs and colds. Children wash their hands before eating, and use antibacterial hand gel when they have visited the chickens.
- The childminder gives parents superb support to continue their children's learning at home. Children have a 'busy bag', which contains activities tailored to each child's individual needs and interests. This helps to ensure consistency in children's learning and development, and supports children in achieving the best possible outcomes.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Children's safety and well-being are given extremely high priority. The childminder is very knowledgeable about safeguarding procedures. She fully understands the signs that may indicate a child is at risk of harm. She knows who to contact if she has any concerns regarding children's welfare. The childminder maintains meticulous documentation to help ensure children are protected exceptionally well. She has a superb understanding of wider safeguarding concerns, including keeping children safe online. Children listen to and follow instructions to keep themselves safe. For example, on a frosty morning, the childminder asks them to wait until she has wiped the slide before using it.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY294982
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	10127125
Type of provision	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Childminder
Age range of children	1 to 10
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	9
Date of previous inspection	2 October 2014

Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in 2004 and lives in Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire. She operates all year round from 7.45am to 6.30pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder holds an appropriate childcare qualification at level 3. She provides funded early years education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Jacqui Oliver

Inspection activities

- The childminder showed the inspector around the areas of her home that children access. They discussed how the childminder organises the setting and plans the curriculum and experiences for children.
- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities and assessed the impact this has on children's learning. The inspector and the childminder reflected on a learning experience for children.
- The inspector held discussions with the childminder and children at appropriate times during the inspection. The inspector took account of the views of parents from discussions and the written feedback provided.
- The inspector looked at a sample of the childminder's documents. This included evidence about training and the suitability of those living and working in the premises.

We carried out this inspection under sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of provision that is registered on the Early Years Register. The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and care, known as the early years foundation stage.

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