

Inspection date

10 March 2015

Previous inspection date

13 October 2009

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
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 quality of teaching is outstanding. The childminder and her assistant provide an interesting range of high-quality learning experiences for children, both inside and out. As a result, children are exceptionally motivated and eager to explore.
- Children who speak English as an additional language are supported extremely well, so that by the time they move on to other settings and school, they have excellent skills in spoken English.
- Children's sense of well-being and belonging is very strong because the childminder forms secure emotional attachments with them. She works extremely closely with parents to ensure that she has a wealth of knowledge about each individual child. This contributes to children feeling very settled and secure.
- The childminder demonstrates an excellent understanding of how to protect and safeguard children. Through the implementation of meticulous policies and procedures, she actively promotes children's safety and welfare.
- The childminder has established exceptionally strong partnerships with parents. She goes the extra mile in the support that she offers to them. Parents, through written documentation, thank you cards and questionnaires, express their very high levels of satisfaction with the care that the childminder, the co-childminder and the assistant provide.
- The childminder makes best use of everyday routines to foster children's independence and support their awareness of keeping themselves safe. For example, children are encouraged to put their own shoes and coats on, and she consistently explains why some behaviours are not safe.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance children's already very good outdoor learning experiences even more, for example, through re-organising the outdoor environment to give children more space for riding bicycles and cars.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the childminder and her assistant engaging in activities with children and talked with them about children's learning.
- The inspector viewed the areas of the premises and garden used for childminding.
- The inspector looked at children's assessment records, planning documentation, evidence of the suitability of household members, and a range of other documents, including the safeguarding policy.
- The inspector took account of information from parents as recorded in written documents and looked at the childminder's self-evaluation form.

Inspector

Jill Hardaker

Inspection findings

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

The childminder's quality of teaching is outstanding. There is an excellent focus on learning and all children are highly valued as individuals. The childminder demonstrates a strong passion for, and commitment to, providing children with a stimulating child-centred environment where they are able to flourish. For example, children engage in role play in the playroom and have opportunities to choose to dress up in the vast array of outfits available to them. Young children develop a great love for books as the childminder's assistant shares warm interactive stories with them. Visits to the local library to choose books or to join in rhyme times further increase children's excitement of sharing books. The childminder uses both spontaneous and planned observations to inform her excellent assessments. As a result, she demonstrates an excellent and precise knowledge of each child's starting points, their stage of development and the progress that they make. Consequently, children develop the attributes of competent learners and make exceptional progress in preparation for their move to nursery and school.

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

Children form strong emotional attachments with the childminder and her assistant. They settle extremely quickly and are happy and relaxed in this welcoming home. Children play and learn together extremely well and their behaviour is exemplary. The childminder and her assistant teach children about expected behaviour through the use of consistent messages and very clear boundaries. They remind children to say 'please' and 'thank you', and to generally have good manners. Children are supported exceptionally well in developing the skills that they need to adopt a healthy lifestyle. They are provided with nutritious meals and snacks each day. Children are taught to follow good hygiene practices as they wash their hands at appropriate times. The childminder's use of the garden and nearby parks enables children to have fantastic fun and provides wonderful opportunities. However, on occasions, the space in the garden for riding bicycles and cars is cramped and children find it difficult to move them around.

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

The childminder demonstrates an excellent understanding of the learning and development and the safeguarding requirements. She is extremely confident about child protection procedures, which protects children's welfare. She uses very effective systems to monitor the educational programme and children's progress. The childminder demonstrates a determined drive to continuously develop her practice. She attends training and consults with other childminders for support and to share ideas. For example, she has completed training on meeting the needs of children who speak English as an additional language. This impacts positively on these children in her care. The childminder includes the views of parents in her effective self-evaluation and acts on these for future developments. Highly effective arrangements for regular supervision and checking the performance of the assistant lead to a high level of consistency of practice.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY311294
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	848995
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	10
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	13 October 2009
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 2005 and lives in Stevenage. She operates all year round from 7.30am to 6.30pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder works in partnership with a co-childminder and employs a part-time assistant.

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