

Childminder report

Inspection date	6 November 2018
Previous inspection date	20 April 2015

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
Effectiveness of 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

The provision is good

- Children show that they are confident and happy with the childminder. They welcome her to join in with their play. Children demonstrate that they have formed strong relationships with the childminder, which helps them to feel emotionally secure.
- The quality of teaching is good. The childminder has a secure understanding of child development and children's interests. She regularly observes and assesses children's ongoing achievements. The childminder provides activities and resources that challenge and engage children. They are active learners and make good progress in their learning in relation to their starting points.
- The childminder makes good use of conversations and questions to challenge children in their learning. This helps children to develop their thinking skills and language.
- Partnerships with parents are good. The childminder shares information with them about their child's learning. Parents add to these records to share what their children can do at home. This helps the childminder to build on children's existing skills and to involve parents in their child's learning.
- The childminder suitably reviews and evaluates her practice to promote continuous improvement. She takes into account feedback from parents to assist her in developing her practice further.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- While the childminder completes mandatory training, she does not focus sharply enough on her professional development to raise the quality of her practice to an outstanding level.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- focus professional development to build on the already good teaching to extend children's experiences even further.

Inspection activities

- The inspector viewed the areas used for childminding. She talked to the children and childminder at appropriate times throughout the inspection and observed a variety of activities.
- The inspector looked at evidence of the suitability of the childminder, her family and those living on the premises where she works from.
- The inspector discussed children's learning and development and sampled their records.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents by reading a number of their comments on questionnaires obtained by the childminder.
- The inspector reviewed a selection of policies and procedures, including safeguarding. She discussed risk assessments and the childminder's self-evaluation process.

Inspector
Susan Sykes

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. The childminder has a good knowledge of how to identify when a child may be at risk and the procedures to follow if concerned. She carefully risk assesses the environment within the home and when on outings to help keep children safe. The childminder has implemented a good range of policies and procedures which underpins the running of the setting. The childminder monitors children's progress closely so that any gaps in their learning can be swiftly addressed. The childminder has high expectations of what children can achieve based on accurate assessments of their knowledge and skills when they join her setting. She works closely with her co-childminder and shares information which helps to give children continuity in their care and learning needs.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The childminder observes children well and uses this information to assess their level of development. She helps children develop their communication and language skills as she talks to children skilfully and values their ideas. For example, children enthusiastically talk about building a stepping stone bridge for toy dinosaurs to cross. The childminder helps them to think about how to build this and brings in other areas of learning, such as counting how many blocks are used to build the bridge. This helps children's mathematical knowledge. Children focus well on activities of their choice. For instance, they paint pictures of fireworks and remain engrossed as they experiment mixing paints to create new colours.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

The childminder gathers a good range of information about children when they start with her. Settling-in procedures are flexible to meet the needs of children and their families. This helps to ensure that children are supported well when they first attend the setting. The childminder helps children to keep themselves safe. For example, she teaches children about road safety when walking around the local community. Children learn about the wider world through a range of interesting experiences. These include visits to local parks and woodland. The childminder supports children's health and well-being effectively. Children have daily exercise and fresh air and are provided with healthy food choices.

Outcomes for children are good

Children make good progress from their starting points. They learn to share and take turns. They are keen to help as they complete tasks, such as tidying away toys and respond well to praise. They are forming firm friendships and show they are confident. This helps to prepare them for the next stage in their learning and their eventual move to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY315673
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	10070392
Type of provision	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Childminder
Age range of children	1 - 2
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	4
Date of previous inspection	20 April 2015

The childminder registered in 2005. She works daily from the home of another childminder who lives in Welwyn, Hertfordshire. She operates all year round from 8.15am to 6.15pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder holds a relevant childcare qualification at level 3. The childminder provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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