

Childminder Report

Inspection date

3 August 2015

Previous inspection date

22 June 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 has a superb understanding of how children learn and develop. She precisely manages the balance between supporting and extending play and allowing children to develop their own ideas to promote learning. Children enjoy a fantastic range of activities that fully engage and support them in making excellent progress in readiness for school.
- The inspirational childminder shares her wealth of knowledge and experience with young people at schools who are studying childcare courses. She visits them to talk to them about the role of a childminder, helping them to consider childminding as a future career choice.
- The childminder forms superb, warm and caring bonds with children. Children are very happy and demonstrate that they feel exceptionally secure in her care. She provides all children with lots of praise and reassurance. Children thrive in the childminder's care and show high levels of self-confidence and motivation in activities.
- Children's safety and well-being are of paramount importance to the childminder. She is highly attentive and constantly vigilant to ensure that any hazards are successfully minimised. Safeguarding procedures are fully understood and the childminder regularly updates her training in this crucial area of practice.
- Partnerships with parents are exceptionally strong. The childminder fully values parents' role in their children's learning and development. She ensures that they are regularly consulted and always kept fully informed about their children's ongoing progress and ideas to help their progression at home. Parents describe the childminder as beyond brilliant.
- The childminder uses self-evaluation as a powerful tool for improvement. She is relentless in her pursuit of excellence and drives forward with a strong commitment to achieving and maintaining the highest quality of care for children.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance the excellent opportunities for children to expand their understanding of diversity even further.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed a range of indoor play activities and spoke to the childminder and children at appropriate times.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the childminder.
- The inspector looked at children's assessment records, a selection of policies, safety procedures and required documentation.
- The inspector looked at evidence of the suitability of the childminder and her husband.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day of inspection and well as their written views received via email prior to the inspection.
- The inspector reviewed the childminder's self-evaluation form.

Inspector

Lorraine Pike

Inspection findings

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

The childminder proactively identifies children's next steps in their learning through her pertinent observations and rigorous assessments. As a result, children's individual needs and interests are at the heart of the stimulating activities she plans for them. Children of a young age have a superb level of concentration as they complete challenging activities. The childminder works exceptionally close with a small network of childminders. She shares exciting topic boxes that complement themes, such as mini-beasts. Her excellent attention to babies' vocalisations helps them to learn the patterns of conversation. She consistently responds to their babbles and introduces them to new words that relate to their play. The childminder asks older children probing questions that require their response. They use complex sentences to talk about their holidays and make predictions. Therefore, they make exceptional progress in their developing language. Children gain an excellent understanding of diversity. They taste foods from different countries and learn about different ways of life. The childminder has innovative ideas about how to promote children's awareness of additional traditional customs, some of which she has not yet fully implemented.

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

The childminder and her own children are excellent role models. Therefore, children behave exceptionally well, creating a vibrant and happy atmosphere for all. Babies shriek with delight as the childminder plays a game of peek-a-boo with them. Children join in with fun songs containing words that help them to understand responsibilities and how to keep themselves safe. Even young children understand how to keep themselves safe as they explain that you must wear shoes if there are bees about. The childminder provides children with a superb range of healthy nutritious meals. Children have outstanding opportunities to take part in physical exercise in the fresh air. They enjoy daily visits to the park where the childminder transports equipment to create challenging obstacle courses. Exciting plans are in place to provide children with dedicated learning spaces following the current renovation of the childminder's garden.

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

The qualified childminder has an exemplary understanding of her responsibilities in meeting and implementing the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. In addition, she is exceptionally knowledgeable about new Government initiatives and forthcoming changes in legislation. She very efficiently reviews the educational programmes she provides. The childminder works closely with the local childminder network coordinator and is influential in regard to future training opportunities for herself and other childminders. She is dedicated to continuing to improve her knowledge. As a result of recent training, the childminder has an in-depth knowledge of how to enhance children's literacy development through play. Successful partnerships with other settings that children attend enable the childminder to fully complement their learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY317099
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	849049
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	7
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	22 June 2009
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 2005 and lives in St Albans. She operates all year round from 7.45am to 6pm, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminders holds a relevant childcare qualification at level 3.

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Piccadilly Gate
Store St
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 4234
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