

Childminder report

Inspection date: 2 March 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 demonstrate that they feel incredibly happy and emotionally secure in the childminder's care. They show extremely high levels of well-being and build very secure relationships with the childminder and each other. Children listen very well to the childminder and their behaviour is consistently outstanding. Considering their ages, children demonstrate excellent attention skills. They concentrate exceptionally well both in self-chosen play and adult-planned activities. Children are excited to explore and very quickly learn new skills. For example, children aged under two years old hold pencils with precise pincer grips. Their mark marking and emergent writing is exemplary.

The childminder knows children extremely well and talks in detail about how she supports them to learn what they need to know next. She uses children's love of books to help them to develop their early language and imaginative skills. Children sit and listen extremely attentively as the childminder reads stories. They begin to learn how books work as they take turns to lift up flaps, as they find out what happens next. Children respond to the childminder's clear instructions. For example, they find toy animals to match pictures in books. At other times, children thoroughly enjoy making stories come to life. For example, they make houses from straw, sticks and bricks, and work out which ones they can blow down. Children are highly motivated, superbly engaged and keen to learn more.

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

- The childminder is extremely experienced and totally understands how children learn and develop in the early years. She has exceptionally high standards and precisely reflects on all aspects of her practice. The childminder's consistent high-quality evaluations have resulted in her maintaining her practice at an outstanding level over many years.
- The childminder nurtures excellent relationships with children and their families. Exemplary setting-in procedures mean that children immediately feel very safe and secure. The childminder obtains in-depth details about children's early experiences and what skills they already have. She uses this information superbly well. For example, the childminder accurately identifies what each child needs to learn next and has this at the heart of her superb planning and teaching.
- The childminder provides a language-rich environment, which helps to develop children's growing vocabulary. She uses every opportunity to extend and support children's speech. Young children use clear, concise sentences to express what they are thinking. For example, as they puzzle over why a ball will not roll up the slide, children subtly ask themselves why.
- Children enjoy excellent daily opportunities that support them in developing

mathematical skills. For example, the childminder uses children's interest in the story about a hungry caterpillar to introduce them to numbers and counting. Considering children's ages, their ability to confidently count and compare numbers is exceptionally high.

- The childminder's assessments of children are meticulous and enable her to set precise targets for their learning. She shares this pertinent information with parents to ensure a consistent approach. Children demonstrate the skills they need for nursery or school well in advance of the time that they move on.
- The childminder works exceptionally well with parents. She offers them extensive feedback about their children's progress and seeks their views on the quality of her service. Parents' feedback is highly positive. For example, they state that their children thrive in the childminder's care and make rapid progress, especially in their speech and social skills.
- The childminder teaches children the benefits of having a healthy lifestyle. She provides children with nutritious snacks and meals. The childminder makes sure that children have access to the outdoors each day. For example, they play in the garden. Children are developing excellent physical skills, which they demonstrate superbly well as they kick balls. Young children show a remarkably mature understanding of their own needs. For example, when they say they are cold, they independently go inside to find their hat.
- The highly motivated childminder is keen to continue to raise the excellent quality of education even further. For example, she is highly effective in seeking relevant training opportunities that help to continually refresh her knowledge and build on the quality of her outstanding practice. The childminder receives excellent peer support through her strong networking with other childminders. She talks about how they are undertaking training to help them to develop stronger knowledge on a wide range of safeguarding topics.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The childminder has robust procedures in place to help to ensure that children remain safe. She attends many safeguarding training courses and undertakes her own research. This ensures her knowledge of legislation is relevant and up to date. The childminder can identify signs and symptoms that may indicate abuse, including those relating to wider safeguarding issues and the 'Prevent' duty. She knows the procedures to follow in the event of any concern about a child or an adult.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY320948
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	10127151
Type of provision	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Childminder
Age range of children	1 to 9
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	7
Date of previous inspection	18 May 2016

Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in 2006 and lives in Bishop's Stortford. She operates all year round from 7am to 5.30pm, Monday to Thursday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder holds an appropriate qualification at level 4.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Jill Hardaker

Inspection activities

- The inspector looked at the areas of the childminder's home that she uses with children and discussed how she operates her practice.
- The inspector observed the childminder joining in activities with children and discussed the learning that was taking place with her.
- A sample of policies and procedures was looked at by the inspector, including documents relating to safeguarding and children's records.
- The inspector discussed the needs of individual children with the childminder and talked with her about the progress they are making.
- The inspector took account of the written views of parents and discussed the childminder's reflections of her practice with her.

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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