

Childminder Report

Inspection date

18 May 2016

Previous inspection date

27 March 2012

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Outstanding	1
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Outstanding	1
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Outstanding	1

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- The childminder and her assistant promote children's mathematical learning to a high level. They use innovative techniques, resources and everyday experiences that ensure children's enthusiastic participation. Children are eager to use what they know to solve problems and to challenge themselves to the highest level.
- Children build very strong bonds with the childminder and her assistant. Children's emotional well-being is fostered expertly. The childminder and her assistant take the time to get to know children really well. They value children's opinions and are keen for them to share their ideas.
- The childminder and her assistant provide children with an exceptional learning environment. They have extended the opportunities with a dedicated cabin full of superbly organised resources and informative displays. This help children to make independent choices and to source information to support their own learning.
- Partnerships with parents are exceptionally strong. Parents value the excellent quality of the setting. They are complimentary about the childminder and her assistant's skilled, professional approach and the warm, welcoming and highly stimulating environment they offer.
- The quality of teaching is outstanding. The childminder and her assistant have focused their continuous professional development on a range of subjects. This enhances their already highly skilled teaching and helps them to keep up to date with any changes in current practice.
- The childminder and her assistant track children's progress towards the early learning goals with absolute precision. They use their observations to support accurate assessments and to plan further worthwhile experience. They knows exactly where each child is in their learning and how to help them achieve the very best they can.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- explore further the ways to build on the already very good opportunities for parents to share information about children's learning at home.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector reflected on and discussed children's learning through play with the childminder and her assistant.
- The inspector had discussions at appropriate times throughout the inspection with the childminder and her assistant. She also spoke to the children present.
- The inspector looked at a range of documentation including observation and assessment records of children's progress, the safeguarding procedures and the childminder's self-evaluation. She also saw evidence of the suitability of the childminder, her assistant and members of the household.
- The inspector spoke to parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Alison Reeves

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The childminder and her assistant have a thorough understanding of how to protect children, including knowledge of the latest government guidelines. They maintain meticulous documentation and use it very effectively to underpin practice. The childminder has established a robust induction and supervision plan for her assistant that contributes significantly to ensuring the consistently high quality of teaching. The childminder involves her assistant in evaluating the effectiveness of what they offer to children and their families. They set themselves challenging goals and continually strive to achieve ever higher levels of expert professional care and learning. The childminder, through her evaluation has identified the possibility to enhance her planning by looking at further ways to gain information from parents about children's learning at home.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

The childminder and her assistant are dedicated to providing children with a wealth of interesting activities that inspire and excite them about learning. The fascinating box of resources, designed to promote children's hand control by helping them to develop their muscles, has all children thoroughly engrossed. Children thoughtfully consider which of the resources they want to use and then concentrate hard on their chosen task. Books and props are successfully used to engage and further children's interest and engagement in literacy. They thoroughly delight in telling the stories together. The childminder explains how the children have rapidly developed their confidence in retelling favourite stories as part of their daily experiences.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Children are confident and demonstrate an exceptional sense of belonging in the setting. They show their rapidly increasing self-esteem as they independently find their shoes and put them on ready to play outside. They have superb opportunities for outdoor play and enjoy experiencing the weather and the natural world. The childminder has some innovative, home-made resources, which they use for planting and growing. Children show their expert knowledge about what the seeds will need to help them grow into big plants. The childminder successfully extends experiences that children find particularly interesting. They look for spiders and small insects, knowing exactly where the best places are in the garden to investigate. This inspires the children to include the toy mini-beasts in the soil remaining in the tray. The childminder and her assistant are quick to praise children's achievements and encourage positive behaviour.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

Children are effectively prepared for the move to school. The childminder and her assistant use their excellent knowledge of how children learn to help them gain the skills they need for the next stage in their learning, such as at pre-school. All of the children are making rapid progress in their learning and development. They excel in sharing what they know and can do. The childminder and her assistant consistently help children to deepen their thinking and understanding.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY320948
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	849097
Type of provision	Childminder
Day care type	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	1 - 4
Total number of places	12
Number of children on roll	11
Name of registered person	
Date of previous inspection	27 March 2012
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 2006 and lives in Bishops Stortford. She operates all year round from 7am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder holds an appropriate qualification at level 4 and works with an assistant.

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Piccadilly Gate
Store St
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 4234
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