

Childminder report

Inspection date	15 November 2018
Previous inspection date	9 February 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

- The childminder has a thorough knowledge of what children are interested in and their current skills. She closely monitors the progress children make in their learning and effectively uses her observations of children's play to plan their individual next steps.
- Children behave very well and have exceptionally good manners. They demonstrate that they are settled in the childminder's care, welcoming visitors with confidence.
- The childminder is calm and caring and she provides a warm, home-from-home environment. Children develop trusting relationships with the childminder. She supports their emotional well-being very well.
- The childminder has formed exceptionally good relationships with parents. She keeps them well informed about their child's progress through discussions and electronic communication. Parents speak highly of the childminder and the service she provides. Comments include 'we couldn't think of a nicer family to be part of' and 'we have total confidence in her care'.
- The childminder reflects on the quality of her provision and considers the views of parents. She is aware of her strengths and areas for development. This helps her to focus on what she needs to do, to work towards continuous improvement and maintaining good-quality care and learning experiences for children.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The childminder is still exploring ways to enhance her professional development to help raise the quality of her provision and even better outcomes for children.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- focus on professional development opportunities to raise the quality of the provision to an even higher level and to achieve even better outcomes for children.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector completed a joint evaluation of the inspection with the childminder.
- The inspector held several discussions with the childminder. She looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of persons living in the household.
- The inspector spoke to children during the inspection.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents through written feedback provided.

Inspector
Sharon Alleary

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The childminder has a secure understanding of possible signs that indicate that children may be at risk of harm. She knows how to take swift action to protect children's welfare in the event of a child protection concern. The childminder has considered the risks and hazards in her house. This helps to ensure she maintains a safe and secure environment where young children can play and explore safely. The childminder always supervises children and keeps her premises secure. The childminder understands the importance of working alongside other early years providers with whom she shares the care of children. She endeavours to maintain a good exchange of information. This helps to ensure there is a positive shared approach to children's care and learning.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The childminder promotes children's confidence and learning through her subtle interactions with them. She instinctively knows when children want her to join in with their play and when they simply want her to be there, watching them. The childminder shows a genuine interest in what children have to say. This motivates them to talk about their brothers and sisters at home. The childminder skilfully extends children's interests. She introduces new resources to enhance their enjoyment. For example, children play with toy cars and a garage, and the childminder introduces tubes for the children to whizz their cars down. Children experiment with the different-sized tubes and placing them at different heights.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

The childminder has flexible and well-thought-out settling-in arrangements, which are tailored to meet the needs of children and their families. This helps children to settle quickly. The childminder actively encourages children to follow good hygiene practices, such as washing their hands before eating. Furthermore, she encourages children to develop good self-care skills, such as using the bathroom independently. The childminder sits with children as they enjoy a healthy snack of correctly cut grapes. The childminder is aware of the importance of outdoor experiences and she plans regular daily trips beyond her home, which help to promote children's physical and social skills. Children learn about road safety when they cross roads on the walk to and from school.

Outcomes for children are good

Children make good progress and are working well within expected levels of development for their age. Children's mathematical skills develop well. They recognise and name colours and count objects confidently. Children develop their early reading skills and learn that words carry meanings. They explore books about dinosaurs, matching their own dinosaur toys to the ones in the pictures. They check out facts about the dinosaurs and confidently tell the childminder what a dinosaur tail is used for. Children engage well in activities and concentrate for sustained periods. They develop the skills they need for the next stage in their learning and eventual move to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY333452
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	10070310
Type of provision	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Childminder
Age range of children	2 - 12
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	15
Date of previous inspection	9 February 2015

The childminder registered in 2006 and lives in Chelmsford. 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 3.

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