

Childminder Report

Inspection date

14 September 2016

Previous inspection date

13 December 2013

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Requires Improvement	3
Effectiveness of the 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

This provision is good

- The childminder has made several improvements since her last inspection. For example, she has increased her knowledge about how to effectively use the progress check for children between the age of two and three years. She now has an accurate understanding of all children's abilities and provides suitable activities to help their development.
- The well-qualified childminder has a warm and friendly personality. She offers a homely environment where children form secure attachments with her.
- The childminder is enthusiastic and joins in with children's play. She talks to them throughout their activities and encourages them to concentrate on tasks.
- The childminder has clear expectations for good behaviour. Children are encouraged to share, take turns and respect each other's feelings.
- The childminder monitors the quality of her provision. She shares ideas and good practice with her co-childminder. They reflect on their work and regularly discuss how they can continually improve.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- At times, the childminder does not give enough time for children to respond during their play, so that they can extend their thinking skills.
- The childminder's professional development plans do not focus sharply on continuing to develop her knowledge and teaching skills even further, so that children make progress at a more rapid rate.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- provide children with sufficient time to think and respond during their play to help them learn to express themselves effectively
- explore ways to engage in professional development opportunities that focus more precisely on further developing knowledge and skills and raising the quality of teaching to an even higher level.

Inspection activities

- The inspector spoke to the childminder and her co-childminder and children at appropriate times. She engaged in the children's play. The inspector observed the childminder's and children's interactions with each other indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector checked evidence of the suitability and qualifications of the childminder and the suitability of other adults living and working in the home.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the childminder.
- The inspector looked at a range of documentation, including the safeguarding policy. She also looked at children's observations and learning and assessment records.
- The inspector took account of parents' views through thank you cards left with the childminder.

Inspector

Maura Pigram

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The childminder is familiar with signs that indicate children may be at risk of abuse. She is aware of procedures to follow if she has any concerns about children's welfare. Since the last inspection, the childminder has developed her practice. For example, she researches different topics, such as current safeguarding legislation and has attended related training. She has also increased her knowledge about how to effectively use observations and assessments to identify children's learning needs. For example, she regularly completes a detailed summary of all children's progress and shares this with parents. They work together to identify the next steps in children's learning. She updates her policies and procedures and shares all information with her co-childminder.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The childminder knows each child very well. She ensures that activities are planned according to their interests and what they need to learn. For example, games to promote knowledge about numbers, shapes and colours are introduced. Children have fun and enjoy a variety of activities and experiences. They discover how to thread textured materials into a colander to create a colourful hat. This is one example of how their hand-to-eye coordination and concentration skills are promoted. The childminder is very attentive to children's needs and plays alongside them. She knows the children well and ensures that resources they enjoy playing with are easily available to support their next steps in learning.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children enjoy spending time with the friendly childminder and her co-childminder. They are treated as part of the family. The childminder works closely with parents to ensure that children are supported well with their move from home. She ensures that children's ongoing changing needs are well known and are effectively supported, such as during potty training. The childminder praises children during their play. This helps to promote their self-esteem. They happily help to tidy up their toys and are well behaved. Children's health, hygiene and independence are well promoted by the childminder. For example, they are encouraged to cut their own sandwiches and learn how to use a knife safely. Older children are reminded how to safely walk to and from school.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are making good progress. They are learning the key skills they need in preparation for moving on to school. They enjoy sharing books with their friends and the childminder. This helps to support their early interest in reading. Children are learning to recognise colours and they can match the correct number of play items to some written numbers. Children draw and make marks to help their hand-muscle development in readiness for early writing. They learn to socialise with other children when they visit play sessions outside of the childminder's home.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY336537
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	1043594
Type of provision	Childminder
Day care type	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	3 - 4
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	3
Name of registered person	
Date of previous inspection	13 December 2013
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 2006 and lives in Welwyn Garden City. She works with her husband, who is also a registered childminder. The childminder operates all year round from 7am to 6.30pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder has an appropriate early years qualification at level 3.

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