

Childminder Report

Inspection date

19 February 2016

Previous inspection date

16 September 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
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 is committed to promoting her own professional development. Since her last inspection, she has completed a recognised childcare qualification at level 3. The childminder's increased knowledge and understanding has a positive impact on how she promotes children's learning and development.
- A key strength of the childminder's service is the careful attention she gives to supporting children's emotional needs. For example, she offers home visits, which help children to get to know her and build trust.
- The childminder provides a wealth of opportunities for children to explore and find out about the cultures, customs and beliefs of others, including those of their peers. Parents report that the childminder explores different cultural foods, traditions, festivals and faiths.
- The childminder's clear and calm approach to behaviour management is effective. She encourages children to be thoughtful and kind to others, treating them with respect.
- The childminder regularly checks the environment and implements measures to ensure that it is safe for the children attending. The childminder includes all children in discussions about road safety, which helps them learn about how to keep safe.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The system for staff's professional development does not focus sharply enough on raising practice to the highest level.
- Some planned activities for the younger children do not consistently take full account of their development needs. This does not always maximise their learning opportunities.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- support the professional development of assistants through a more targeted process of supervision
- strengthen the planning of adult-led activities, so that younger children can be fully involved in order to maximise their development during these activities.

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 observation with childminder.
- The inspector held a number of discussions with the childminder. She looked at relevant documentation, such as the childminder's self-evaluation and evidence of the suitability of persons living in the household.
- The inspector took account of parents' views through the feedback provided.

Inspector

Ann Cozzi

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The childminder shows a clear understanding about how to keep children safe. Her policy details the procedure to follow should she have any concerns in regard to children's continued well-being. She understands how children learn and uses a good range of teaching methods to help them continue to make good progress. The childminder regularly seeks and takes account of parents' and children's views and opinions. She uses this information to help inform her plans for the future development of her service. Parents report that the childminder involves them in her observations, assessments and development checks. They speak highly of her and state that they would not hesitate in recommending the childminder to other parents.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The childminder has a clear understanding of her responsibility with regard to supporting children's development. She finds out about each child's starting points before they attend. This helps her to successfully plan to meet their needs from the beginning. The childminder observes, assesses and monitors each child's ongoing learning needs. Through her planning she organises a stimulating range of activities that children enjoy. They are able to make choices about what they would like to do next, helping themselves to the toys on offer. Young children become engrossed in what they are doing, maintaining good levels of attention. They look at books and enjoy lifting up flaps to reveal what is underneath. The childminder uses language in context and gives children a running commentary about what they can see. Young children have lots of fun as they learn concepts, such as up and down. Following the childminder's lead, children enthusiastically hold their doll up in the air and then quickly bring it back down again.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Young children move around the childminder's home showing that they are confident and self-assured in her care. They have built firm attachments with the childminder and strong friendships with the other children. Children take part in a wide range of outdoor experiences. They learn how to grow things at the childminder's allotment and spend time playing in her garden. Young children enjoy visits into the local community. This gives them the chance to learn about the world around them and practise socialising with others. The childminder provides a nutritious range of home-cooked meals, supporting children's good health. She also talks to children about healthy options and successfully encourages them to extend their experience of taste by trying new foods.

Outcomes for children are good

Children in the childminder's care are making good progress towards the early learning goals based on their starting points. They participate in play and are learning skills that prepare them well for their next stage of development and eventual move on to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY344604
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	863059
Type of provision	Childminder
Day care type	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	1 - 10
Total number of places	18
Number of children on roll	22
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	16 September 2011
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 2007 and lives in Welwyn Garden City. She employs two of her adult children to work as assistants on a part-time basis. The childminder holds an appropriate childcare qualification at level 3 and one of her assistants holds Qualified Teacher Status. She operates all year round from 7.30am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays.

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