

Childminder report

Inspection date: 24 October 2019

Overall effectiveness	Good
------------------------------	-------------

The quality of education	Good
--------------------------	-------------

Behaviour and attitudes	Good
-------------------------	-------------

Personal development	Good
----------------------	-------------

Leadership and management	Good
---------------------------	-------------

Overall effectiveness at previous inspection	Good
--	------

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

The childminder provides an excellent childminding service where every child is respected and valued. Children show they are very happy and relaxed in the childminder's care. She is warm, caring and sensitive to their individual needs. The childminder is a very good role model and children behave very well.

The childminder has created a unique and special learning environment for children. The indoor and outdoor areas of her home are attractively decorated with a wealth of interesting objects. These are used creatively for children to play, explore, imagine and learn. Children are greeted by garlands, bunting and many fascinating artefacts in the childminder's garden. They enjoy the many sensory experiences, including smelling flowers and herbs, and listening to the different sounds in the garden.

The childminder follows children's ideas and interests to plan for a rich and varied curriculum. Children have fun as they go on interesting outings or take part in activities that they thoroughly enjoy. For example, when younger children show an interest in windmills, the childminder takes them to see a working mill. They watch with amazement as the large wheels go round to produce the flour. She extends their learning by using the flour to make pizzas for tea.

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

- The quality of teaching is very good, and sometimes outstanding. The childminder is well qualified and experienced. She has high expectations of what children can achieve. She knows the children well, and confidently talks about their stage of development and what they need to learn next.
- The childminder provides a wide range of stimulating activities and experiences to support children's learning. For example, children enjoy a visit to a stately home where they dress up and pretend to be 'Cinderella' as they dance in the ballroom.
- The childminder encourages children's listening, understanding and speaking skills. She uses a variety of activities, including stories, poems and songs. She introduces children to new words, such as 'merry-go-round', and asks meaningful questions that extend their thinking. Children enjoy listening to the childminder's exciting stories. They are keen to use the excellent props to help them retell the story.
- The childminder regularly shares information with parents. For example, she sends them messages and photographs of their children playing during the day. Parents are given ideas of how they can extend their children's learning at home.
- Parents say they are very happy with the care their children receive and the

progress they make. They say the childminder puts the children first and goes above and beyond to make sure they have plenty to do. They say that the childminder's home is 'beautiful' and 'magical'.

- The childminder teaches children about how they can keep themselves safe. For example, she supervises them to take safe risks as they play in the garden. They talk about road safety when they go on outings.
- Mealtimes are relaxed, social occasions. Children are given time to eat comfortably and are encouraged to develop their independence skills. The childminder offers a selection of healthy and nutritious meals and snacks. She is aware of the children's dietary requirements as parents share this information with her before they start.
- Children are well supported to develop aspects of their personal care. For example, they wash their hands, put on their shoes and coats, wipe their own noses and help to tidy away the toys.
- The childminder regularly reflects on her provision. She monitors the practice of her assistant effectively. The childminder and her assistant are highly motivated to continually develop and improve. The childminder is very open to change and is willing to respond to any feedback she is given about her practice.
- The childminder gathers information from parents about children's care needs before they start attending. However, she does not find out as much as she can about what their children already know and can do before they start, to enable her to plan thoroughly and build on their learning right from the beginning.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The childminder places a very high importance on keeping children safe. She has a very good knowledge of the current procedures to follow should she have any concerns about a child's welfare. The detailed safeguarding policy is regularly updated to ensure all information is current and relevant. The childminder recognises her duty to safeguard children with regards to radicalisation and extremism. All required child record forms and documentation are in place to support children's safety and well-being. The childminder adheres closely to specific dietary requests when planning menus for children with allergies.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- gather more detailed information about the skills and abilities children already have when they first start, and use this information to plan challenging activities from the beginning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY344604
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	10073804
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	19
Date of previous inspection	19 February 2016

Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in 2007 and lives in Welwyn Garden City. She operates all year round from 7.30am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder works with an assistant on a part-time basis. She holds a childcare qualification at level 3 and her assistant holds qualified teacher status. The childminder provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Jacqui Oliver

Inspection activities

- The childminder showed the inspector around the areas of her home that children access. They discussed how the childminder organises her setting and plans the curriculum and experiences for children.
- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities and assessed the impact this has on children's learning. The inspector and the childminder reflected on a learning experience for children.
- The inspector held discussions with the childminder and children at appropriate times during the inspection. The inspector took account of the views of parents from written feedback provided.
- The inspector looked at a sample of the childminder's documents, including evidence of training and the suitability of those living on the premises.

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.

If you are not happy with the inspection or the report, you can [complain to Ofsted](#).

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, further education and skills, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for looked after children, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 1231, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may reuse this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/, write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk

This publication is available at <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/>.

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our monthly newsletter for more information and updates: <http://eepurl.com/iTrDn>.

Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.gov.uk/ofsted

© Crown copyright 2019