

Childminder Report

Inspection date

2 July 2015

Previous inspection date

24 March 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Good	2
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Good	2
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Good	2
The setting meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- Children's achievements are good, given their starting points and capabilities. Teaching is strong because the childminder makes effective use of observations and assessments to support children's development. As a result, children make good progress and are acquiring the skills they need for their next stage of learning.
- Partnerships with parents and carers are good. Information sharing is regularly encouraged and parents write positive feedback about the care the childminder provides. The childminder and parents work together to ensure that children are fully supported in their move from home and on to school. As a result, children's learning and development are consistently promoted.
- Children are happy, settled and well cared for in a warm and welcoming environment. They are developing strong bonds and attachments with the childminder and other minded children. Their personal, social and emotional development is fully promoted.
- Children's safety is promoted well because the childminder ensures that they are safe in and out of the home. She carries out regular risk assessments, keeps up to date with safeguarding training and meets the safeguarding and welfare requirements.
- The childminder supports children's mathematical development. She provides activities, such as threading, matching and counting games to help promote children's recognition of numbers and shapes.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Children are not always provided with opportunities to fully develop their imagination or sensory experiences.
- The childminder does not always extend younger children's vocabulary during their play.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- extend opportunities to enhance younger children's imagination and sensory play experiences
- model language more effectively to extend children's vocabulary and further promote their developing communication and language skills.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed general play and the snack and lunchtime routines in the childminder's home. She talked with the childminder and children at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector held joint discussions with the childminder in relation to observations of the children's play, learning and progress.
- The inspector discussed how the childminder reviews and evaluates her setting, including training opportunities, to seek continuous improvement.
- The inspector looked at evidence of the suitability of the childminder and her family, and a range of other documentation, including the childminder's safeguarding and first-aid certificates.

Inspector

Jo Rowley

Inspection findings

How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend. This is good

The childminder implements the Early Years Foundation Stage well. She focuses on children's next steps in learning and their interests when planning activities so that they enjoy what they take part in. Children engage well in activities and show good levels of concentration, for example, as they seek out bugs in the garden. Each child has a magnifying container which they fill with bugs and talk about what they need to feed them. Children learn to estimate how high they can build as they use small building blocks. The childminder ensures that she adapts the activity so that younger children can join in by providing larger sized blocks for them to use. However, children's imagination and sensory development is not so well promoted. They have fewer opportunities to explore, move and use equipment and materials in different ways. Children's physical development is supported through activities that build on their increasing strength, coordination and dexterity. Younger children explore a range of resources and babble happily as the childminder lovingly interacts with them. However, their early language skills and vocabulary are not consistently reinforced. The childminder does not always use different types of words, such as nouns to name items children are interested in.

The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children is good

The area children use is brightly decorated with artwork and pictures, and children have independent access to the toys and resources. The toys are stored in boxes decorated with pictures drawn by the children, showing what is inside. As a result, all children can make independent choices about what they play with, promoting their confidence. Children have daily access to fresh air and exercise. They also enjoy a wide range of outings to local parks and day trips to the beach and zoo. The childminder has some clear boundaries in place and she is consistent in her approach to behaviour management. As a result, children learn about appropriate ways in which to behave. In addition to this, they learn about the importance of sharing and turn taking. Children learn about the importance of hygiene as they regularly wash their hands after outside play and before meals.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision is good

The childminder has a good knowledge and understanding of how to protect the children in her care. When on outings she provides children with high-visibility clothing. She carries emergency contact details for each child and for herself, to ensure that incidents and emergencies can be dealt with promptly and effectively. Arrangements for safeguarding children are good. The childminder demonstrates a strong understanding of the importance of safeguarding the children in her care. She attends a range of training to improve her knowledge and evaluates her practice on a daily basis. As a result, she is able to promote continuous improvement. The childminder encourages partnership working with other early years providers to support children's good progress.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY346629
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	863132
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	5
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	24 March 2011
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 2007 and lives in Watford. She operates all year round from 7am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder holds a relevant childcare qualification at level 3.

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